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ABSTRACT

In its second phase this project continued the development of demonstration models of library projects and activities for the elderly at sites in Hazard, Somerset, Lexington, and Louisville, Kentucky. Accomplished were the completion of the site profiles; administration of the Survey of Leisure Time activities and transformation of the data to the computer for analysis; development of a Users Potential Index; a site-by-site analysis of the statistical data from the survey; and, using the socioeconomic demographic data together with data from computer printouts, the initiation of demonstration programs at each site. Positive response was received from all site librarians, participating groups, and the Kentucky State Library. The libraries planned to continue the model projects. Replication of the project nationwide was recommended. (Author/PF)

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IR

# A
# DEMONSTRATION PILOT PROJECT
# OF
# COMPREHENSIVE LIBRARY SERVICES
# FOR THE AGED
# IN
# SELECTED KENTUCKY COMMUNITIES

## (NRTA/AARP KENTUCKY LIBRARY PROJECT)

IR 001 866

U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Office of Education
Bureau of Libraries and Learning Resources

Final Report—Phase Two
Grant No. OEG-0-72-1671
Project No. 1-0701
July 1974

# ABSTRACT

## NRTA/AARP KENTUCKY LIBRARY PROJECT

## Phase II

The original two-year proposal projected during Phase II included the development of demonstration models of library projects and activities for the elderly at sites in Hazard, Somerset, Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky. These were to be (1) innovative within the limits of available resources, (2) responsive to the White House Conference on Aging's recommendations for outreach efforts for the "forgotten and hard-to-reach," and (3) involve other community agencies in the project. A second ten-minute film showing the demonstration models in operation likewise was projected.

Budget limitations and funding delays completely beyond the control of the Project Director limited the scope of what actually could be accomplished, including elimination of the demonstration film. Please refer to the Preface and Chapter I for details.

Accomplished was the completion of the site profiles, administration of the Survey of Leisure Time Activities and transforming data to the computer for analysis, development of a Users Potential Index, a site-by-site analysis of the statistical data from the Survey, and, using both the socio-economic-demographic data together with data from computer print-outs, demonstration programs were initiated at each site, and suggestions were made for continuation and new programs. Response by all site librarians, participating groups and the Kentucky State Library was highly gratifying, especially in view of the funding difficulties and the delays this caused. Perhaps most satisfying, under these circumstances, is the planning by the librarians to continue, and even expand (see Louisville's plan, for example) their services to the elderly in Kentucky.* This appears to the Project Director, and the Association he represents, NRTA/AARP, to be the logical result and function of a demonstration project. In this sense the NRTA/AARP Kentucky Library Project was a great success. Replication nationwide is recommended, and is feasible, but this will entail an entire new phase, building on what has already been accomplished.

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*All sites have reported plans for continuing expanding services to the elderly in their service areas.

Final Report - Phase Two
Project No. 1-0701
Grant No. OEG-0-72-1671

# A Demonstration Pilot Project of Comprehensive Library Services for the Aged in Selected Communities in Kentucky

## (NRTA/AARP Kentucky Library Project)

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July, 1974

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Office of Education
Bureau of Libraries and Learning Resources

# PREFACE

# PREFACE

The final report of Phase II of the NRTA/AARP Kentucky Library Project has been an exercise in both futility and solid accomplishment. Futility, because the Phase II grant was about $20,000 less than programmed, and accomplishment because of the cooperation of local site libraries and the project consultants to work together imaginatively to somehow go on and complete the project even though the dollar cut-back made it look realistically impossible.

While the budget cut-back forced a totally new look at Phase II, the two largest sites, Louisville and Lexington, with the cooperation of our consultants, Elizabeth Rulander and Roberta Wilber, working with the librarians and local officials, produced proposals for use of residual Title III funds which, though not equal to the cut-back, made it possible to go ahead with the model program plans. Naturally, this resulted in time delays, since the sponsoring agency was likewise seeking to locate supplementary funding. In the end, work on model site substantive activity which should have begun about July 1973 could not begin until after December 1973. It is a tribute to all the librarians, the Project Team and the sponsoring agent, NRTA/AARP, that they continued to encourage the Project Director to "make the most of the project" with the resources available. This was done, and following are the results of those efforts.

The Project Director, who bears full responsibility for the content and interpretation of the project, is especially indebted to his Program Development Consultant, Betty Rulander, and his Research Consultant, Roberta Wilbur, for their professional competence and their particular devotion to the project and their roles as professional gerontologists. Their impact on the professional library staffs at the sites, and other cooperating and contact agencies has been positive and substantial. This is likewise true with reference to librarians and agencies serving the elderly who have heard or read about the Project and inquired about the unique resource materials it will provide as another dimension of service to the elderly, and as a technique in helping to build the new image of aging in America.

As the conclusions of the Phase I Report showed (June 1973), that the public library is a viable community resource for enriching and involving the older citizen, the Phase II Report confirms those assumptions.

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# METHODOLOGY

# CHAPTER I

## METHODOLOGY USED TO DEVELOP MODEL LIBRARY SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

Four geographical areas in Kentucky were chosen to participate in the designing and development of a demonstration model of library services for the elderly. It was important to keep all four area sites because of their diverse size and socio-economic composition--a large metropolitan area, a smaller metropolitan area centering around two universities, a semi-rural community, and a rural community in the heart of Appalachia. Each particular area had shown initiative in serving their elderly population and had at least one established program for older people.

Background Materials. During Phase I of the project, materials were developed which were invaluable in designing models of library service. A brief description of how each document was used in the designing and implementation phase of the project will be discussed. However, the more comprehensive look at these materials is contained in the Phase I Final Report of the project.

Community profiles were developed for each area site and constantly revised throughout the project's operation. Included in these reports were findings on social, economic, cultural, and recreational features, demography, and a current directory of resources. These profiles were most helpful to determine existant programs which could be supplemented by the libraries' resources or those which should not be duplicated because current programs were fulfilling the community's need. In the planning phase of implementation, special attention was paid to each profile's section on transportation, housing, socio-economic characteristics and the directory of services.

In conjunction with the community profiles, a comprehensive library report was developed for the four library systems with an analysis using comparisons based on nationally developed library standards. Included in this report were items on governance; area and schedules of service; fiscal management; central, branch, and outreach facilities; materials and miscellaneous collections; equipment; organization of collections; personnel; service desks; promotion and guidance of reading; group and community activities; registration and circulation figures; and inter-library loans. This profile was used in the designing phase of implementation to determine the library's resources and limitations in providing services to the elderly. Of particular interest were the sections on areas and schedules of service; fiscal management; architectural design, availability, and safety factors of central, branch, and outreach facilities; types of material and miscellaneous collections; kinds of equipment; number and duties of personnel; promotion and guidance of reading; and the types of group and community activities.

Concurrently with the development of the profiles, two sets of maps were produced for each community--one showing the concentration of elderly in subdivisions of the service area and the other showing the location of the central library, its branches, and its bookmobile routes. These maps* were used in the preliminary planning stage of implementation to determine whether or not areas with a high concentration of elderly had library services available to them.

A casebook of library services for the elderly was also produced during the first project year. It consisted of a selective compilation of existent and innovative library programs and services drawn from across the nation shown to have particular appeal to the elderly. Each program or service was described according to its content, type of clientele served, equipment and materials used, number and type of staff employed, estimated cost, evaluation, and related comments. This document was of special significance in the planning phase of implementation as a guide in suggesting programs and program adaptation in each area site.

A user, non-user survey was designed, pre-tested, and then administered to groups of elderly people in each site.** Most of the preliminary analysis of this data was available in the early part of project year two and incorporated into the planning and development of demonstration models. The questionnaire covered such items as indicators of socio-economic status, availability of transportation, factors of health affecting library use, positive or negative attitudes toward life, life satisfaction, detailed study of leisure activities, reading interest profiles, attitudes towards libraries and librarians, knowledge and use of services of the library, and the needs of users and non-users. The data accumulated by the questionnaires gave the critical input of the clientele to be served, and it was extensively utilized in designing potential programs at each area site. Of particular importance were the indices of socio-economic status, availability of transportation, factors of health affecting library use, reading interests, leisure activities, and library services used or anticipated.

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*Included in Phase I Report.

**A description of this follows in the next section.

Series of Planning Sessions. In attendance at these first meetings were the directors of the library, the assistant directors, and the heads of the extension department. From the project were the Library Consultant, the Program Development Consultant, and the Research Associate.

The materials generated by the project were distributed in person to the four libraries. Each report was explained and discussed as to its usefulness in program development. It was felt by the project team that this material, supplemented by the information previously obtained in the gerontological workshops, would assist the librarians in developing viable program statements.

Therefore, each library was asked to use these materials and develop written program statements that they would like to initiate at their library. These statements were to consist of a description of the service(s), the type of materials and the equipment needed, the location of the service(s), and the estimated cost. Deadline for the written statements to be submitted was two weeks after this first meeting. If there were any questions about these reports, they were discussed at the meeting, and the library staff was aware that the project's staff would be available to answer any questions that would arise during the development of their program statements. Another meeting to examine and discuss the program statements was scheduled at this time.

The statements were submitted and reviewed by the project staff. Only minor revisions were made in three of the program statements while the fourth required considerable revision to meet the needs of the elderly in that community. Consultation by telephone or in person was made with each area site before the statements were changed. The revised statements were incorporated into the supplemental budget requests made to the U.S. Office of Education and the National Retired Teachers Association/American Association of Retired Persons.

These program statements along with the project's background materials were used in the development of possible program statements at three of the four area sites* (part of Improved Library Service for Older Adults). They were presented by the project staff at the second meeting with the librarians at the other three sites. Each program was thoroughly examined as to its appropriateness in terms of community need, the library's resources, and its cost. At these meetings the librarians were asked if they had a desire to work with such audio-visual equipment as cameras, recorders, monitors, and a videocassette recorder/player. Two of the libraries expressed great enthusiasm and were offered the project's two packets of equipment which they accepted gratefully. Basic program outlines were decided on at these meetings. However, they could not be initiated until additional funds were obtained for the project due to the Office of Education's cut in the budget for the second year as indicated in the Preface.

Interruption of Actual Implementation to Search for Funds. At this point the project team made additional efforts to search for local funds. Previously supplemental budget requests had been submitted to the project's funding agency and sponsoring association. Such organizations as the Brown Foundation, the Kentucky Humanities Foundation, the Nutrition Program for the Aging, and the Area Development Districts were contacted for possible support of program initiation. The most likely means of funding seemed to be the Area Development Districts through their Aging Planners. It was known that unexpended Title III funds of the Older Americans Act were available which had to be committed within a restricted time period in Impact Areas. The project team immediately informed two of the libraries of this situation.** Two proposals were written by the project team using the possible program statements as a guide. Other information needed for the proposal was obtained from the project's previous background materials. Working under the pressure of a two-week deadline, constant communication between the project team and the staff of the libraries was needed and maintained. Incorporated in the proposals was the professional liaison between the library staff and the project team of the NRTA/AARP Kentucky Library Project. Although no libraries in Kentucky had ever received (or even applied) for funds from Title III before, both proposals were accepted. Notification of this grant award for six months was received by each library in January, 1974.

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*A possible program statement for Hazard was not compiled until later due to the difficulty in obtaining all the questionnaires which involved these two factors: (1) the composition of the various organizations which are not age-segregated as those in larger cities, and (2) the disbandment of groups during the summer months.

**The third library, Pulaski County Library, was not in an Impact Area where these funds were available. Impact Areas were defined as districts housing a high concentration of low-income and minority groups of older people.

Initiation of Programs. The data from the user, non-user survey showed similar reading interest profiles, leisure activities, and anticipated use patterns at all the sites. As a result, some programs at the various area sites are similar in basic structure, but each library brought its unique resources to make variations on the basic design. For example, all the area sites developed an oral history program because of the elderly's interest and needs in the community, but none of the four area sites had identical programs. The Lexington Public Library recruited volunteers to help record oral history on cassette tapes to become part of the library's resources. The Perry County Library started a continuing program of the folklore, music, and history indigenous to the area. The Louisville Public Library has contacted local people from various walks of life in order to identify older people to be interviewed and to do the interviewing. These sessions were videotaped for the library's permanent records. The Pulaski County Library went one step further and initiated plans to have a series of their oral histories shown over cable television.

The project has stressed supplementing ongoing services for the elderly, such as the nutrition centers, in addition to new activities. The rationale for this is threefold: (1) the possibility of eventually contracting services with one of these programs, (2) the programs eventually handling the library programs on their own, and (3) the current thinking of the government to coordinate programs especially through the nutrition centers. Wherever possible the librarians were advised to serve the nutrition centers and tie into other existant services for the elderly. Also all the area sites were informed that the month of May was dedicated to Older Americans, and when possible they provided special programs during this month since no statewide program in Kentucky was initiated.

Despite similarities in program choices, each area site had unique methods of design and implementation for their programs. The rest of this section will deal with the area sites on an individual basis.

## Louisville

The programs decided upon at the planning sessions were incorporated into the Title III proposal. They included (1) expansion of the Bookmobile for the Elderly to the nutrition centers and areas of high concentration of elderly as delineated on the map produced by the project, (2) employing the data (especially the reading interest profiles) from the user, non-user survey in selection of materials for the Bookmobile, (3) establishing an oral history program where the elderly would interview and be interviewed. A special effort would be made to obtain participants from various socio-economic levels and the sessions would be taped with audio-visual equipment, (4) developing a rotating film collection which would be presented at centers, nursing homes, and residential homes for the elderly, and (5) coordinating seminars or talks on programs of interest to the elderly using agency and community people from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Department of Recreation, and the Social Security Administration.

Since Louisville had previously decided at the planning sessions to employ their librarian from the Bookmobile for the Elderly as the Coordinator of these new programs, he immediately began to organize the scheduled programs. Before the Coordinator left Louisville to take another position in his hometown, developments had been realized in most of the services except the oral history program. However, a new coordinator from the library staff was obtained within a week and she continued with the expansion of services so that all program areas were fulfilled to the extent possible. All the established Nutrition Centers in the city, except for one located close to the main library, receive bookmobile service and have film and/or book review programs. Several branches have established special programs, seminars or talk and demonstration programs for the elderly. Seven RSVP workers have been helping the librarians in two branches with their craft and bridge lessons. Youthful volunteers have begun delivering materials to homebound elderly, and twenty-seven stops were added to the route of the bookmobile for the elderly during the six-month period from the impetus provided by the NRTA/AARP Kentucky Library Program.

Since so many of the programs have met with success, even with this short time period, the Louisville Public Library has arranged to keep the Coordinator of Library Services for the Elderly to continue these ongoing programs and initiate new ones when the need arises. This suggests the value of demonstration projects with local commitment.

## Lexington

Lexington, like Louisville, decided on the program discussed at the planning sessions previous to their incorporation into the Title III proposal. They included (1) providing demonstration programs or talks on current affairs to the elderly in nursing homes and residential homes for the elderly, (2) establishing film programs at the nutrition centers and senior citizens club, (3) developing an oral history program where the interviews with the elderly would be recorded on cassettes, (4) circulating a special newsletter of interest to the elderly, (5) improving outreach services to the elderly by changing architectural features of one of the bookmobiles so it would be easily accessible to the elderly, and adding special collections to exhibit, such as paintings and coping skills publications, and (6) obtaining elderly volunteers to work with the Coordinator on the new programs for the elderly, thus directly involving the latter in a meaningful way.

The Lexington Public Library had previously decided in the planning sessions that there was a definite need to employ a new person to provide services to the elderly. If possible the library wanted to hire an active older person as the Coordinator of Library Services to the Elderly. The new position was advertized by conventional means, as well as by announcements on bulletin boards in a high rise housing apartment for the elderly and a senior citizens center. Also contacts were made by personal recommendations. In February two part-time coordinators were hired instead of one full-time person to initiate services to the elderly. By mid-March the anticipated results from the program had not been achieved. There was difficulty in obtaining needed volunteers to help the coordinators expand outreach services and the oral history program. Appropriate organizations and groups such as RSVP, the Volunteer Bureau, the Donovan Class, and churches were contacted with no concrete results. Also one of the coordinators had to resign because of personal obligations at home. She was soon replaced with one of the libraries' staff who had previous experience in working with the elderly. In spite of delays due to project fund retrenchment all the program objectives were fulfilled within certain limitations during the five-month period. The most successful programs related to film presentations, specialized lectures and demonstrations of homemade crafts, and the newsletter. As a consequence of this, a craft fair was planned with the cooperation of other agencies for July. Although financial assistance is needed to carry on a broad spectrum of library services for the elderly, some of the services will be continued by the extension department. Proposals had been submitted to the State Library so the other services could be started again in the Fall.

## Somerset

In December the project's audio-visual equipment was delivered to the Pulaski County Library. Use of this equipment began immediately upon its arrival. Televised programs and live presentations suggested by the data obtained from the user, non-user survey were videotaped for further showings to elderly audiences.

An interview with the President of the Kentucky Heritage Artist Series taped by the library was shown over cable television. At that time preliminary arrangements were made to show a series of oral history programs, somewhat comparable to Prime of Life--Nebraska Series presented on station KOLN-TV.

After funds had been obtained for Louisville and Lexington, the project had a minimal amount of money to subcontract services at Somerset. Although basic programs had been decided at the previous planning sessions, another meeting between the librarian and the project team took place in order to re-establish objectives and goals within the shorter time frame of two months. The programs eventually decided upon included (1) expansion of outreach services via the bookmobile and individual contacts at nursing homes, and the placement of the stationary bookmobile in areas of high concentration of the elderly, determined by the Phase I survey, (2) promotion of the talking book program through contacts with agency people and individual elderly, and in-service training of the staff, (3) development of a ministerial workshop during May, Older Americans Month, where a non-denominational religious group would answer questions concerning the spiritual well-being of the elderly, (4) sponsoring a one-day program on community beautification for the elderly. This consisted of obtaining an appropriate speaker from the community to give a suitable presentation, setting up book displays on the topic, and related film showings, and (5) participating in an oral history program using the Project's audio-visual equipment.

A Coordinator was chosen immediately since the librarian had previously screened people in the community for this position. The Coordinator of Library Services to the Elderly was able to fulfill the service agreement and add new dimensions to the programs. She found a way to take part of the Beautification Program to the elderly in one of the nursing homes, and the patients even received tomato plants which had been donated by one of the local women's clubs. The Coordinator expanded outreach services by using the "geriaides" (young volunteers in nursing homes) to deliver materials to the patients. Another program which she initiated was a craft fair which consisted mostly of elderly exhibitors. Over 70 exhibitors participated and nearly 500 people attended the fair. Given time, publicity and fund limitations this was considered outstanding for this size community. A proposal has been submitted to the state library for funds to continue services to the elderly. In the meantime the Coordinator will be working on a regular part-time basis to continue some of the programs, especially the oral history program. This again supports the validity of local involvement of sponsoring and co-sponsoring agencies.

## Hazard

By the time financial resources had been obtained for Louisville and Lexington, all Hazard's data from the survey had been collected. Subsequently it was coded, keypunched, and computer runs were available for analysis. Contact was maintained between the project team and staff at Hazard to develop a possible statement using the same procedures as previously described for the other three area sites. A meeting with the librarian was held in the early part of March 1974 to subcontract services. The programs decided upon at this meeting were (1) improvement of outreach services by contacting agencies and organizations to identify elderly shut-ins, (2) giving special assistance to persons on the nutrition program for the elderly, (3) purchasing books and materials, utilizing the data obtained from the user, non-user survey as a guide, (4) coordinating a continuing program of folklore, Kentucky Mountain music, and local history on cassette tapes using elderly participants, and (5) sponsoring a cultural enrichment program for the elderly during the month of May where art, crafts, and musical instruments would be displayed and demonstrated.

Since it was originally discussed at the first planning session that a Coordinator for the new services would be hired, groundwork had been laid for the recruitment of such a person. A retired businessman was eventually chosen to be the Coordinator and he eagerly began work on schedule. The enthusiastic Coordinator fulfilled the service agreement. He contacted older people on the street, in their homes, and through the Senior Citizens Corner as well as other agencies to explain how the library could serve their needs. Talks on nutrition, social security, and other topics of interest to older adults were organized by the Coordinator at the Hazard Senior Citizens Corner, a general community senior citizens center. He started a senior citizen's luncheon at the library which was evolved into a regular activity every fourth Tuesday. Film programs or talks were given at the bag luncheon, and the library provided the drinks which were donated by the local merchants. He coordinated Banner Week, an invention of the library to celebrate older Americans' month. During this week arts and crafts made by the elderly were exhibited and some were sold. The big event of the week was the banquet held at the library which drew over 200 senior citizens. A grandfather clock, handmade by a 67 year old man, was presented to the library at this dinner. Even the library's staff commented how more elderly seem to come to the library every day now. Plans have been initiated to secure funds from local and state sources to continue special library services to the elderly as the demonstration model expires.

Follow-up and Other Service. Constant consultation was maintained with each area site during program implementation. When changes in personnel resulted, the project team spent time with the new person for orientation purposes. The project team helped each site to develop a brief questionnaire* to be administered to the elderly participants. Questions included in this handout dealt with how people had heard about the program, how they liked it, what was the best time of the day and week for them to attend a program, and what other library services did they use. Also a form was developed for the Coordinator to fill out after each program. It included such questions as how many programs have been offered to date, how they have been publicized, how many people have been served, whether or not participants have the opportunity to participate in program decisions, etc. These brief questionnaires were developed to comply with the information useful to the Area Development Districts as well as our own programs. Answers to these questionnaires varied. Some of the Coordinators said that too many of the participants were unwilling or unable to fill the two-page forms out. However, monthly reports were presented to the project team in accordance with the method easiest for the Coordinators to fill out by the type of activities that he or she was doing.

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* Copies are included following this section.

Search for Funding to Continue Library Services. Beginning in mid-March the project team began searching for alternative means of funding the library programs that had been initiated or would be initiated when the NRTA/AARP Kentucky Library Project was dissolved and Title III funds would no longer be available for library services (considered as gap services in the new Title III guidelines). A continuation proposal was submitted to the U.S. Office of Education early in April. The libraries at the four sites were advised to contact the Brown Foundation in Louisville and the Kentucky Humanities Foundation in Lexington as possible funding sources. The aging planners--or human resource planner for Pulaski County--were contacted for possible funding of library services for the elderly. Also the State Unit on Aging and the State Department of Library and Archives were approached by the project team. At that time no foundation or agency knew of any means of resources available. The libraries in the four areas were contacted to support the American Library Association's backing of a supplemental budget for the Older Readers Services Act and letters of support for this action were sent to representatives in Kentucky.

Many communications in person and over the telephone were made to inform the libraries about the funding situation. A written statement followed these communications in mid-May directing the libraries as to whom they should contact if funds became available. Also various agencies were made aware of the libraries' programs, and they were asked to contact the libraries if funding became available. Recently three of the libraries have personally contacted the State Library about continuing their programs. They have submitted proposals to the department which has been enthusiastic about these services. Earlier this year one of the libraries in the project received funds from the State Library to expand their materials collection for the elderly. It is crucial, of course, that the experience and data accumulated be widely used and disseminated if the NRTA/AARP Kentucky Library Project will have been worthwhile. Aware, as most Project Directors and their staffs are, that material such as this frequently is assigned to a shelf, we sincerely urge that what has been learned in this two-year project instead will be made available and used by librarians and aging agencies throughout the country.

## Evaluation of Local Program

Following are copies of both the Coordinator's Evaluation Form, and the participants Evaluation Form. Both can be adapted to local conditions and needs.

## Form Used To Evaluate Local Programs

To be filled out by the Coordinator for Library Services to the Elderly.

Date: ____________________

Location: ________________

(1) Do participants have the opportunity to participate in decisions, such as:

| | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| programs provided | _____ | _____ |
| time programs are given | _____ | _____ |

(2) How many persons 60 years and older have been served by the project: __________

(3) How many people served have been:

low income __________

black __________

(4) What is the total attendance for the program(s) in this service to date including homebound or shut-in service? __________

(5) How many separate programs have been offered to date?

__________

(6) In what ways have the program(s) been publicized?

| | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| House to house canvassing | _____ | _____ |
| Number of visits _____ | | |
| TV announcements | _____ | _____ |
| Number of spots _____ | | |

(continued)

|  | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|
| Radio announcements | _____ | _____ |
| Number of spots _____ |  |  |
| Mail outs | _____ | _____ |
| How many _____ |  |  |
| Other ____________________________ |  |  |

(7) Are there any barriers at the site of the series of programs which makes use by older persons difficult?

______________________________________________________

(8) How many agency and community resource people have been contacted about library services to the elderly?

______________________________________________________

(9) Are there any circulation or registration statistics available on the 60 or over age group?

Yes _____ No _____

(10) How many people have been contacted for the oral history program? ______________________________

(11) Have any tapes of programs been made?

Yes _____ No _____

If so, please list them: ___________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

## Form Used To Evaluate Local Programs

### PROGRAM EVALUATION

Program attended: ______________________

Location: ______________________

(1) How did you hear about this program?

TV announcement _____
Radio announcement _____
Newspaper announcement _____
Notice in the library _____
Told by another person _____

(2) Did you feel that this program:

Provided useful information _____
Provided entertainment _____

(3) Could you hear well from where you sat? _____

(4) Do you have any suggestions for topics for discussion or for future programs?

____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

(5) Have you used any other library services such as:

Bookmobile _____
Checking books out _____
Attending film programs _____
Calling on the telephone for information _____
Attending craft or art exhibits _____
Other _____

Explain: ______________________________

(6) What other library services did you use while you were in the building for the program?

__________________________________________________

(7) How do you rate the program?

Very good _____
Good _____
Fair _____
Poor _____
Comments: ________________________________________

__________________________________________________

(8) What is the best time of day and week for you to attend programs? __________________________________

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE ANSWER

Age:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 45 - 55 _____ | 65 - 70 _____ | 75 - 80 _____ |
| 55 - 65 _____ | 70 - 75 _____ | 80 and above _____ |

Sex:

Male _____ Female _____

# METHODOLOGY

## USERS-NON-USERS SURVEY
## AND
## CONSTRUCTION OF THE UP INDEX

## CHAPTER II

## METHODOLOGY FOR THE USER-NON-USER SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE UP INDEX

Between 1960 and 1970 the population of Kentucky 65 years old and over increased by 45,000 persons. The total population of the United States 65 years and over is expected to continue to increase to a projected 28,842,000 by the year 2000. With increased coverage by social security and private pensions, fewer people are expected to remain in the labor force. Even now, many retirees have as many as 6 hours a day to be filled with leisure activities of their choosing. With this free time in mind, the NRTA/AARP Kentucky Library Project, funded mainly by the Office of Education and administered by the Institute of Lifetime Learning in Washington, D.C., is making a strong effort to enhance the lives of older persons through innovative demonstration library programs created especially to fit their needs.

One of the components used as a basis for improved library service is a user non-user survey. (Other components included a bibliography, a case book of present or potential library services to the aged, a community profile and a library profile.) The survey was accomplished by means of a questionnaire developed by the Project's Research Specialist and was administered to over 700 persons residing in four communities of varying sizes.

The questionnaire was expected to elicit baseline data concerning differences in such socio-economic characteristics as marital status, living arrangements, educational attainments, and sources and amounts of income. Areas of activity such as leisure interests, and social and community contacts were analyzed. Additionally, responses regarding attitudes toward the library, and use and anticipated use of library services were tabulated. Selected materials gathered through the questionnaire were used to construct the User Potential Index (or UP Index) to indicate the number of persons among the respondents who might most likely become library users.

## Literature Search and Planning

Background research on the construction of the questionnaire began on November 15, 1972, at which time a search of the literature was undertaken*. Studies found to be especially helpful were:

National Survey of Library Services to the Aging by Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio, (December, 1971) prepared by Booz, Allen and Hamilton, Management Consultants.

The Disadvantaged and Library Effectiveness by Clair K. Lipsman. Chicago, American Library Association, 1972.

A Study of Library Services for the Disadvantaged in Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse by the Center for Field Research and School services, Project Director: Virgil A. Clift. New York, New York State University, June, 1969.

Baltimore Reaches Out: Library Service to the Disadvantaged. Baltimore, Enoch Pratt Free Library, June, 1967.

Metropolitan Public Library Users in Maryland, Baltimore-Washington Area by Mary Lee Bundy. College Park, University of Maryland School of Library and Information Services, 1968.

Library Surveys by Maurice B. Line. Melbourne, Australia, Cheshire, 1967.

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*Details reported in the Phase I Report, June 1973.

## Construction of the Questionnaire

Questionnaires were filled out by each respondent rather than being completed by an interviewer. Consequently, the language of the questionnaire had to be couched in terms of the least educated, many of whom had less than a high school education. According to the Current Population Reports, only 20.1% of persons 65-74 and 15.2% over 75 have completed high school*.

Even a person with a high school education would probably have left school at least 45 years ago and would be unaccustomed to being "tested". Consequently, every effort was made to phrase both the questions and the instructions in simple terms and to assure the respondents that there were no "right" or "wrong" answers.

Many persons 55 years and over are afflicted with physical handicaps such as palsy which renders the physical act of writing difficult. In virtually every case, answers may be indicated by a check mark as opposed to being articulated. A few questions require a small amount of writing -- for example, questions on retirement and preretirement employment as well as an indication of favorite magazines or books.

A great portion of older persons suffer some degree of visual impairment, either through the normal consequences of aging or through abnormal conditions such as glaucoma or cataract. Older persons generally require a substantially greater amount of non-glare illumination, and in this respect conditions at the site of administration are not always favorable. The questionnaire thus was printed in large, easy-to-read, orator type face, with generous inter-item spacing which made marking the intended blanks much easier.

The names and addresses of respondents were desired for a possible follow-up interview. Since many persons are reluctant to include such identification in a questionnaire, space for this information was provided at the bottom of the first sheet. If a respondent desired, the lower portion of the first page of the questionnaire could be removed and turned in separately from the answers.

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*Table 1. Years of School Completed by Persons 14 Years Old and Over by Age, Race, and Sex; March, 1972. Current Population Reports, P-20 Series, No. 243, p. 13.

The "readers interest list" included in the questionnaire was supplied by Frances Coleman, Director of the Library for the Blind and Phsycially Handicapped in Frankfort, Kentucky. Since all of the material circulated from that library is selected by mail, this particular list had been amended over a period of time so that it satisfactorily covered the various subject categories.

On December 1, 1972, a preliminary form of the questionnaire was presented at the meeting of the NRTA/AARP Kentucky Library Project Advisory Committee in Louisville. Suggestions and comments from members of the Advisory Committee were requested*.

## Pretesting

On December 7, 1972, the questionnaire was administered to a group of Donovan scholars at the University of Kentucky as a pretest. Donovan scholars are those persons 60 years of age and over who are attending the University tuition free in a voluntary continuing education program. Most of the group had either finished college or had completed some college education. Additionally, by the mere fact of their enrollment in the Donovan program, it is evident they are aggressively active persons. As anticipated, the discussion session held after the administration of the questionnaire elicited a number of valuable suggestions regarding format and interpretation.

## Subsequent Revisions of the Questionnaire

Three subsequent revisions followed, primarily concerned with reducing the length of the questionnaire, by dropping items not deemed absolutely essential to the project. The section on mobility was re-worded. The section on employment was re-worked to be more easily interpreted and answered. Regretably, two scales that would have provided interesting material had to be omitted for the sake of brevity -- a 15-item life satisfaction scale and a 10-item attitude toward reading scale. The second and subsequent revisions were pre-coded in the margins to simplify computer coding.**

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*A copy of the Preliminary Draft of the questionnaire dated November 27, 1972, as well as Revisions #I, II, III and the final revision IV follows immediately in the text of this chapter.

**See coding instructions for questionnaire immediately following narrative on page 36.

## Rationale for the Use of Group Interviews

Due to necessary economies in both time and money, the study plan required that the questionnaires be completed through the use of group interviews. The rationale for group administration is as follows:

(1) Reluctant persons may be more inclined to cooperate due to group reinforcement. More complete coverage may result in comparison with mailed questionnaires.

(2) Variabilities in the interpretation of the questions may be reduced since each person in the group receives the same explanation and fills out the questionnaire in the same surroundings.

(3) Group administration reduces the number of interviewers needed to be trained which may reduce bias which might be injected due to the attitude and personality of the interviewer toward the respondents.

(4) Total time involved to collect the data is substantially reduced so that all schedules will be filled out within a relatively short span of time. This may reduce the amount of error due to changes in responses occurring between the time the questionnaires are administered and the data are analyzed.

(5) The group interview method makes use of naturally occurring groups of older persons. Since older persons constitute a relatively small percentage of the entire population (between approximately 8 and 14% in the areas included in this study), this is one means of locating them. An effort was made to include groups of persons representing low, medium and high income levels, various levels of educational attainment and groups which have various reasons for congregating -- some because of employment background, some for educational, religious or patriotic reasons and some who congregate for purely social reasons.

(6) Many of the aged living alone welcome a break in daily routine and it is difficult for an interviewer in a one-to-one situation to make a graceful exit.

(7) Per schedule cost was greatly reduced.

## Disadvantages In Using the Group Interview Method

As might be anticipated, certain disadvantages are also built into this method, namely,

(1) The easy acceptance or rejection of the questionnaire is dependent upon the attitude of the person who presides at the meeting. Adequate preparation and exploration is essential prior to the administration. Unless the officers of a group are fully aware of the breadth of the study and the importance of the questionnaire to it, cooperation is more difficult. Even with such acceptance, it is possible that a member with strong leadership qualities in the group can make a remark such as "It's too long--I'm not filling this out!" or some other negative remark which decreases the rapport already established. Sometimes this has the opposite effect--others seem to fill out the questionnaire in spite of this person.

(2) Completion of the questionnaire must always compete for time with other activities planned by the group--eating, singing, discussing pension difficulties, future meetings or parties, etc. Completion before the meeting is accompanied by a general restlessness especially if a meal is planned. If the questionnaire is presented for completion at the very end of the meeting, many members leave and the coverage is less complete. Many older persons do not wish to be out late in the evening and are adamant about early adjournment.

(3) Physical surroundings are sometimes incompatible with easy completion. Often respondents do not have a table available and must complete the questionnaire while holding it on their laps. Lighting may not be adequate for the needs of older eyes.

(4) Completion time is dependent on the general educational level of the group. In groups of fairly high educational level, the completion of the questionnaire takes between 10 and 15 minutes. In groups with a lower average education, the amount of explanation required is increased, completion time is increased and many fail to complete the final pages.

(5) If there are some in the group who read much slowly than others, conversation by those already finished or the continuation of the meeting makes concentration difficult. The ones who are slow to complete the questionnaire are the very ones who do not tolerate distractions well and they tend not to complete the latter pages.

(6) At the time the questionnaire is turned in, there is no way to check to see if it is completely filled out.

(7) Certain extraneous persons are often included --visitors from another area, younger persons who are members, etc. These may be weeded out, however.

(8) In small communities many persons belonged to several of the groups which may be contacted. Those who have already completed a questionnaire must wait for others to finish.

(9) Meetings tend to be scheduled either during the first quarter or the last quarter of the month. Consequently, several groups in a community might meet the same night. As a result, a month's wait might be necessary before another group could be contacted.

(10) Groups in some communities are not so age-segregated as in other communities. Consequently, relatively more "extraneous" questionnaires are included.

## Administration of the Questionnaire

Participants in the study are included by age and status in the labor force. Persons over the age 65 are included, irrespective of their status in the labor force. Persons younger than 65 are included if they say they are "retired."

The questionnaire was administered to 701 persons in the service areas of four Kentucky libraries:

The Perry County Public Library in Hazard, Kentucky, with a population of 5,459, of which 11.4% are over 65;

The Pulaski County Public Library in Somerset, Kentucky, with a population of 10,436, of which 14.2% are over 65;

The Lexington Public Library in Lexington, Kentucky, a city of 108,137 persons, with a 8.1% over 65; and

The Louisville Free Public Library in Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, with a population of 361,471, 12.3% of which are over 65.

Forty-six questionnaires were filled out by persons in Perry County. Respondents belonged to a senior citizens' group, a womens professional group, an art group, a music appreciation group or were interested individuals.

One hundred nineteen questionnaires were filled out by persons in Pulaski County. Respondents belonged to one of six different groups: a women's group based on patriotism, a retired railroad employees' group, a senior citizens' club, a literary group, a music appreciation group, and a class especially for older persons sponsored by the community college.

Two hundred seventy-nine persons filled out questionnaires in Fayette County. Respondents belonged to one of eight groups: a homemakers' group, a retired teachers' group, a senior citizens' club, two groups residing in high rises especially for the elderly, a social group sponsored by a church, a group belonging to the American Association of Retired Persons, and a group composed of retired federal employees.

Two hundred fifty-seven persons filled out questionnaires in Jefferson County. Respondents belonged to one of nine different groups: a retired teachers' group (RTA), groups from three senior citizens' social clubs, a group of retired union members, two special interest groups (poetry and crafts) from a senior citizens' housing complex, members of an area council and a number of individuals from a low income housing complex. Groups were chosen by drawing them from a list of 69 senior citizens organizations. The objective was to get a broad and representative sample of these groups. On the basis of the information available at that time, religious groups and those based on pre-retirement employment were designated as special clusters prior to the final sampling stage. Nine groups, or 13% were included.

## Analysis of Data

Questionnaires were computer coded according to the Coding Sheets which may be found at the end of this chapter. The University of Kentucky's IBM 360 was used to run the following programs: "Codebook" and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) "Crosstabs" and "Fastabs."

In order to determine the validity of the ten-item library attitude scale, the combined cases for the four library sites were subjected to Guttman Scale Analysis. A perfect scale would be one in which items would range along a continuum from most favorable to least favorable. If any particular question were answered favorably, all previous questions would have been answered favorably. Logically, then, any particular score on the scale would indicate which of the questions were answered favorably. Such a perfect scale is rarely attainable. The coefficient or reproducibility is a measure which describes the degree to which a particular set of items approaches a perfect scale. This is accomplished by means of computing the difference between the expected answers (presuming the scale to be perfect) and the obtained distribution of answers. Generally speaking, a coefficient of reproducibility of .90 or higher is considered an acceptable level for a valid scale. In other words, 90% of the time a respondent's scale score would predict his response pattern, or no more than 10% of the total number of responses would be "errors" or non-anticipated responses.

Six hundred eighty-eight persons answered the library attitude scale which totaled 6,880 answers. Seven hundred eighty-eight "errors" occurred, which resulted in a coefficient of reproducibility of .886. In other words, 88.6% of the time a respondent's scale score was a predictor of his response pattern.

The coefficient of scalability varies from 0 to 1 and should be above .60 if a scale is to be considered unidimensional and cumulative. The coefficient of scalability generated from the combined bases is .70.

Thus it would appear that the library attitude scale is an acceptable scale and that it is unidimensional and cumulative. This was a highly encouraging, objective result for the project team. It is indicative of the validity of the NRTA/AARP research consultant's insight into this particular research problem, and further suggests justification for additional research and analysis.

## THE UP INDEX

In an effort to predict the number of persons contacted who might most readily become library users, a 7-item index (hereinafter referred to as the User Potential or UP Index) has been constructed. It is assumed that the greater the cumulative score on the UP Index, the more likely it is that the person with such a score would become a library user. Those having scores in the middle ranges would be more likely to be infrequent users of the library services. Interpretation is complicated somewhat by non-responses to the library-oriented questions. However, it is assumed that this failure to answer indicates a lack of interest or lack of understanding and such answers are given an accordingly low score.

If a respondent lacked the necessary education to use the library, if he were highly alienated, if he neither read books nor enjoyed reading, and if he had never, up to this point in his life, used the library, it is highly unlikely that he would begin to use the library after retirement. However, if he had the necessary education and liked reading books, if he had used the library even very infrequently, it is more likely that he might establish the habit of using the library (especially if programs were especially chosen to fit his needs and interests). Alternatively, if he enjoyed reading, had never used the library but had a negative attitude to the library, the solution might be an attempt to increase community appreciation and awareness of the services the library can provide.

The UP Index consists of the following components:

(1) Highest level of education

(2) Subjective attitude to happiness

(3) Alienation Score

(4) Enjoyment of Reading

(5) Book Reading

(6) Former Library Use

(7) Library attitude score

Each of the above components is believed to contribute to the likelihood of library use. The cross-tabulation of library use with education shows that the greatest increase in library usage occurs in conjunction with some college education*. Consequently, college education and graduate education are weighted somewhat more heavily than elementary or high school education. With regard to the subjective attitude to happiness, it is felt that new or renewed experiences would be more likely to be acceptable if a person were generally happy with his situation. If a persons has a low alienation score, his orientation would more likely be outward and library use might therefore be of more value to him in expanding his outlook and explaining his problems. Obviously, if a person just does not enjoy reading, he would not be very likely to use the library. Interesting enough, though, with the advent of audio-visual equipment, persons who are not necessarily "readers" may be able to be informed and entertained through library programs in ways that were not heretofore possible. Since most people do not go to the library to read newspapers or magazines, the most likely candidates for library use would be book readers. Since learning to use the library does take some effort on the part of the patron to use the library effectively, it is felt that if such library use were not an entirely new experience, there would be less resistance to using the library. After all, it may be difficult to start something entirely new after retirement*. Finally, how a person feels about the library and its services would have some bearing on whether or not it were used. The potential patron may have had unpleasant experiences in this earlier years when he tried to use the library. Libraries have changed in attitude and improved and expanded services in the last twenty years or so and are now (generally speaking) more service and less custodial oriented places. Initial reluctance might have to be overcome by some kind of orientation inthe use of the library and an assurance of a friendly and helpful welcome of the older patron by the library staff.

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* Suggests relating to latest NRTA/AARP profile of Association membership, as well as any long-range (5-10 year) projection of education level of Association membership.

* This reflects a generalized attitude toward aging. It may have limited validity if an authoritative analaysis of the facts were available, as many of us, including the Project Director, believes might be the case.

The following table indicates scoring used in the UP Index together with the locations of the component parts on two revisions of the questionnaire. (Refer to Forms 3 and 4 of the questionnaire at the end of this chapter).

## SCORING FOR UP INDEX

| Question No. Rev. #4 | Question No. Rev. #3 | Subject | Score | Maximum Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION | | |
| | | Elementary | 0 | |
| | | Any high school | 1 | |
| | | Any college | 3 | |
| | | Graduate School | 4 | 4 |
| 18 | 21* | HAPPY | | |
| | | On old Questionnaire, if fairly happy or very happy | 1 | |
| | | Happy or very happy | 1 | 1 |
| 19 (A-E) | 22(1-5) | ALIENATION SCORE (SCORE) | | |
| | | Note: old Questionnaires are coded in opposite direction. | | |
| | | If score is 0, 1, or 2 | 0 | |
| | | If score is 3, 4, or 5 | 1 | 1 |
| 30 | 33(1-10) | ENJOY Reading | | |
| | | Note: On old Questionnaire if score is 5 or more, code | 2 | |
| | | If yes, | 2 | 2 |
| 33 | 39 | READ BOOKS | | |
| | | If yes | 1 | 1 |
| 36 | 45 | FORMER LIBRARY USER | | |
| | | Never (if not answered, code | 0 | |
| | | if checked, code) | -2 | |
| | | Count one for each check | | 4 |
| 38 (1-10) | 49(1-10) | LIBRARY ATTITUDE SCORE (SCORE 2) | | |
| | | If score is 0 to 3 | 0 | |
| | | If score is 4, 5, 6 or 7 | 1 | |
| | | If score is 8, 9, or 10 | 2 | 2 |

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*Numbers in this column refer to old Questionnaire.

A cross-tabulation of scores of individuals on the UP Index with library use resulted in the following table:

## TABLE

### USER POTENTIAL SCORE
### AS ASSOCIATED WITH LIBRARY USE
### (ALL FOUR CITIES COMBINED)

| UP SCORE | USER | | INFREQUEST USER | | NON-USER | | TOTAL | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | NUMBER | PERCENT | NUMBER | PERCENT | NUMBER | PERCENT | NUMBER | PERCENT |
| 12-15 | 66 | 44.0 | 33 | 22.0 | 51 | 34.0 | 150 | 100.0 |
| 8-11 | 57 | 30.1 | 34 | 18.0 | 98 | 51.9 | 189 | 100.0 |
| Under 7 | 17 | 8.3 | 13 | 6.4 | 174 | 85.3 | 204 | 100.0 |
| TOTALS | 140 | 25.8 | 80 | 14.7 | 323 | 59.5 | 543 | 100.0 |

Of those with high scores (between 12 and 15) 44% are users, 22% are infrequent users and 34% are non-users.

Of those with intermediate scores (between 8 and 11), 30.1% are users, 18% are infrequent users and 51.9% are non-users. Of those persons scoring below 7 on the UP Index, 8.3% are users, 6.4% are infrequent users while 85.3% are non-users. Thus it can be seen that high scores appear to be associated with library usage, intermediate scorces with use and infrequent use, and low scores primarily with non-use.

When determining a realistic target group for increase in library services, generally speaking, the older population who might use the library will be reduced by:

(1) those over 75 years of age since their level of activity may be sharply reduced

(2) those who have less than an 8th grade education

(3) those who are afflicted with the physical handicaps or chronic conditions which result in a number of days of restricted activity

(4) those who are institutionalized

(5) those who are unable to get to the library due to lack of transportation

Given these restrictive conditions, the total number of older persons in any service area could not be considered potential library users. Nonetheless, some persons in categories (3), (4), and (5) may still become library patrons through the medium of specialized outreach programs.

It is anticipated that it would be easier to motivate persons with high and intermediate scores who are non-users to become users of library service. These would include the 51 persons with scores between 12 and 15 and the 98 persons with scores between 8 and 11. It is furthered anticipated that it might be easier to induce those infrequent users with intermediate and high scores to use the library more frequently. Thus there would be 194 "potentials" in the non-user category and 67 in the infrequent user category.

Accordingly, a maximum realistic target group for these respondents would be between 84 and 216 people. If success of the program is judged only by the percentage of total respondents they attract, a danger exists that the response might be considered "unsuccessful" when, in fact, the program may have attracted a considerable proportion of the "potentials". If we further consider that not all "potentials" would become library users under even the most propitious of circumstances, and if we consider that only about one-fourth of the respondents are library users, additional programs might be considered successful if approximately 21 to 54 persons responded to the particular program. Consequently, judgment of program success should be cautiously interpreted in light of the attributes of these respondents.

## CODING INSTRUCTIONS FOR QUESTIONNAIRE ENTITLED "LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN KENTUCKY"

| Column No. | Code | Question No. | Content |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | City |
| | 1 | | Somerset |
| | 2 | | Hazard |
| | 3 | | Lexington |
| | 4 | | Louisville |
| 2,3,4 | 001-999 | | Schedule Number |
| 5 | | | Subgroup |
| | | | SOMERSET |
| | 1 | | Women's patriotic group |
| | 2 | | Retired railroad employees |
| | 3 | | Senior citizens club |
| | 4 | | Literary club |
| | 5 | | Music appreciation club |
| | 6 | | Community college class |
| | | | HAZARD |
| | 1 | | Senior citizens club |
| | 2 | | Professional women's club |
| | 3 | | Art group |
| | 4 | | Music appreciation club |
| | 5 | | Individuals |
| | | | LEXINGTON |
| | 1 | | Homemakers group |
| | 2 | | Retired teachers (RTA) |
| | 3 | | Retired persons group |
| | 4 | | Senior citizens |
| | 5 | | High rise for the elderly |
| | 6 | | Retired federal employees |
| | 7 | | Church sponsored social club |
| | 8 | | High rise for elderly |

| Column No. | Code | Question No. | Content |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | | Subgroup (cont.) LOUISVILLE |
| | 1 | | Retired teachers |
| | 2 | | Church sponsored social club |
| | 3 | | OT Club |
| | 4 | | Senior citizens club |
| | 5 | | Senior citizens club |
| | 6 | | Craft group - high rise for elderly |
| | 7 | | Area council |
| | 8 | | Poetry group - high rise for elderly |
| | 9 | | High rise for low income elderly |
| 6 | | Q1 | Sex |
| | 1 | | Male |
| | 2 | | Female |
| | 9 | | Not answered |
| 7 | | Q2 | Race |
| | 1 | | Black |
| | 2 | | White |
| | 3 | | Other |
| | 9 | | Not answered |
| 8 | | Q3 | How old were you on your last birthday? |
| | 1 | | Under 55 |
| | 2 | | 55 - 64 |
| | 3 | | 65 - 69 |
| | 4 | | 70 - 74 |
| | 5 | | 75 - 79 |
| | 6 | | Over 80 |
| | 9 | | Not answered |
| 9 | | Q4 | What is your marital status now? |
| | 1 | | Never married |
| | 2 | | Married |
| | 3 | | Separated |
| | 4 | | Divorced |
| | 5 | | Widowed |
| | 9 | | Not answered |

| Column # | Question # | Code | Content |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10-11 | (Q-5) | | Education (Please put a circle around the highest year you finished) |
| | | | Elementary |
| | | 11 | One year elementary |
| | | 12 | Two years elementary |
| | | 13 | Three years elementary |
| | | 14 | Four years elementary |
| | | 15 | Five years elementary |
| | | 16 | Six years elementary |
| | | 17 | Seven years elementary |
| | | 18 | Eight years elementary |
| | | | High School |
| | | 21 | One year high school |
| | | 22 | Two years high school |
| | | 23 | Three years high school |
| | | 24 | Four years high school |
| | | | College |
| | | 31 | One year college |
| | | 32 | Two years college |
| | | 33 | Three years college |
| | | 34 | Four years college |
| | | | Graduate School |
| | | 41 | One year |
| | | 42 | Two years |
| | | 43 | Three years |
| | | 44 | Four years |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 12 | (Q-6) | | Household Composition |
| | | 1 | Respondent only (one person living alone) |
| | | 2 | Respondent & spouse only |
| | | 3 | Respondent (with or with out spouse) living with children or other relatives |
| | | 4 | Respondent (with or with out spouse) living with unrelated individuals |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 13 | (Q-7) | | Would you consider your health to be: |
| | | 4 | Excellent |
| | | 3 | Good |
| | | 2 | Fair |
| | | 1 | Poor |
| | | 9 | N.A. |

| Column # | Question # | Code | Content |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | (Q-8) | | Please check one of the following which seems to fit you best. |
| | | 1 | I cannot get around (or keep house) at all now because of my health. |
| | | 2 | I have to limit some of the work or things that I do. |
| | | 3 | I am not limited in most of my activities. |
| | | 4 | I am not limited in any of my activities. |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| | | | NOTE: If more than one answer is checked, code for the most active. |
| 15 | (Q-9) | | Within the last two years have you had your eyes checked by: |
| | | 1 | A doctor |
| | | 2 | A nurse |
| | | 3 | At a clinic |
| | | 4 | Not checked |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 16 | (Q-10) | | Do you wear glasses when you read? |
| | | 1 | Yes |
| | | 2 | No |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 17 | (Q-11) | | Are you being treated for: |
| | | 1 | Glaucoma |
| | | 2 | Cataracts |
| | | 3 | Neither |
| | | 4 | N.A. |
| | | | NOTE: If they checked two, code for bus or taxi if marked, then code highest. |
| 18 | (Q-12) | | When you need to do errands, or go to social gatherings, do you usually: |
| | | 1 | Walk |
| | | 2 | Take a bus or taxi |
| | | 3 | Drive your own car |
| | | 4 | Have someone else drive |
| | | 9 | N.A. |

| Column # | Question # | Code | Content |
|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | (Q-13) |  | Do you own a car? |
|  |  | 1 | Yes |
|  |  | 2 | No |
|  |  | 9 | N.A. |
| 20 | (Q-14) |  | Do you have a telephone? |
|  |  | 1 | Yes |
|  |  | 2 | No |
|  |  | 9 | N.A. |
| 21 | (Q-15) |  | When was the last time you visited in person or on the telephone with either a friend or relative? |
|  |  | 1 | Just today |
|  |  | 2 | During the last week |
|  |  | 3 | Over a month ago |
|  |  | 9 | N.A. |
| 22 | (Q-16) |  | About how many meetings did you attend last month? |
|  |  | 1 | None |
|  |  | 2 | 1-3 meetings |
|  |  | 3 | 4-6 meetings |
|  |  | 4 | 7-10 meetings |
|  |  | 5 | More than 10 |
|  |  | 9 | N.A. |
| 23 | (Q-17) |  | Did you vote in the last national election? |
|  |  | 1 | Yes |
|  |  | 2 | No |
|  |  | 3 | N.A. |
| 24 | (Q-18) |  | In general, how happy would you say you are? |
|  |  | 4 | Very happy |
|  |  | 3 | Fairly happy |
|  |  | 2 | Not happy |
|  |  | 1 | Don't know |
|  |  | 9 | N.A. |
| 25 | (Q-19) |  | In order to get ahead in the world today you are almost forced to do some things that are not right. |
|  |  | 0 | Agree |
|  |  | 1 | Disagree |
|  |  | 9 | N.A. |
| 26 | (Q-20) |  | I am not much interested in the tv programs, movies or magazines that most people seem to like. |
|  |  | 0 | Agree |
|  |  | 1 | Disagree |
|  |  | 9 | N.A. |

| Column # | Question # | Code | Content |
|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | (A-19C) | | I often feel lonely. |
| | | 0 | Agree |
| | | 1 | Disagree |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 28 | (Q-19D) | | There is not much I can do about most of the important problems we face today. |
| | | 0 | Agree |
| | | 1 | Disagree |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 29 | (Q-19E) | | Things have become so complicated in the world today that I really don't understand what is going on. |
| | | 0 | Agree |
| | | 1 | Disagree |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| | | | NOTE: If no answer, code 0 as positive responses are the ones being counted. |
| 30-31 | (Q-20) | | At the present time, do you work for wages or salary? |
| | (Q20-1-A) | 11 | Part time |
| | (Q20-1-B) | 12 | Full time |
| | | 99 | N.A. |
| 32-33 | (Q20-2-A) | 21 | Retired |
| | (Q20-2-B) | 22 | Looking for work |
| | (Q20-2-C) | 23 | I have never worked |
| | | 99 | N.A. |
| 34 | (Q20-2-A2) | | What kind of work did you usually do before retirement? |
| | | 4 | White collar workers,<br>professional, technical and kindred workers<br>Managers & administration except farms<br>Sales workers<br>Clerical & kindred workers |
| | | 3 | Blue collar workers<br>Craftsmen & kindred workers<br>Operatives, except transport<br>Transport equipment operatives<br>Laborers, except farm |

| Column # | Question # | Code | Content |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2 | Farm workers |
| | | | Farmers & farm managers |
| | | | Farm laborers & farm foremen |
| | | 1 | Service workers |
| | | | Service workers, except private household |
| | | | Private household workers* |
| 35-36 | (Q20-2-B) | | How long did you work at this job? |
| | | # of years | |
| | | 99 | N.A. |
| 37 | (Q-22) | | Retirement has been better than I expected, about the same as I expected, or worse than I expected. |
| | | 3 | Better |
| | | 2 | About the same |
| | | 1 | Worse |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 38-50 | (Q-23) | | If an item is checked code 1, otherwise code "0". |
| | | | Check sources of income, 19 |
| 38 | | | Social Security |
| 39 | | | Old age assistance |
| 40 | | | Withdrawals from savings etc. |
| 41 | | | State or federal govt. pension |
| 42 | | | Private or company pension |
| 43 | | | Railroad pension |
| 44 | | | Govt. payment because of some injury |
| 45 | | | Any othe govt. assistance at all |
| 46 | | | Interest from investment or rent |
| 47 | | | Relatives |
| 48 | | | A job |
| 49 | | 9 | Failed to answer whole section |
| | | 0 | If any answers checked above |

*NOTE: If further detail is required, refer to List A, Occupational Classification for Total and White Males..., U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2) 8B, Earnings by Occupation and Education, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1973, p. IX and X attached.

| Column # | Question # | Code | Content |
|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | (Q-24) | | About how much is your monthly income? |
| | | 1 | Less than $200 |
| | | 2 | Over $200 but less than $500 |
| | | 3 | Over $500 but less than $750 |
| | | 4 | Over $750 but less than $1,000 |
| | | 5 | Over $1,000 |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 51 | (Q-25) | | Would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with your housing situation? |
| | | 3 | Satisfied |
| | | 2 | Dissatisfied |
| | | 1 | Don't know |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 52 | (Q-26) | | Would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with your household income? |
| | | 3 | Satisfied |
| | | 2 | Dissatisfied |
| | | 1 | Don't know |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 53 | (Q-27) | | How much spare time do you have in a day to do something you want to do? |
| | | 1 | None |
| | | 2 | Less than one hour |
| | | 3 | 1-2 hours |
| | | 4 | 3-6 hours |
| | | 5 | Over 6 hours |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 54 | (Q28A) | | Do you watch tv? |
| | | 1 | Yes |
| | | 2 | No |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 55 | (Q28B) | | How many hours? |
| | | 1 | 1-2 |
| | | 2 | 3-5 |
| | | 3 | Over 6 |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 56 | (Q-29) | | Do you listen to radio? |
| | | 1 | Yes |
| | | 2 | No |
| | | 9 | N.A. |

| Column # | Question # | Code | Content |
|---|---|---|---|
| 57 | (Q-30) | | NOTE: On old questionnaire if more 1's than zeros, code 2; if more zeros than 1's, code 1. |
| | | | Do you enjoy reading? |
| | | 2 | Yes |
| | | 1 | No |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 58 | (Q-31) | | Do you read a newspaper nearly every day? |
| | | 2 | Yes |
| | | 1 | No |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 59 | (Q-32) | | Do you read magazines? |
| | | 2 | Yes |
| | | 1 | No |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 60 | (Q-33) | | Do you read books? |
| | | 2 | Yes |
| | | 1 | No |
| | | 9 | N.A. |
| 61 | (Q35-10) | | Spend time at library. |
| | | 1 | If checked |
| | | 0 | If not checked |
| 62 | (36-1) | | Was there ever a time in your life when you used the library quite a lot? |
| | | | Never |
| | | 1 | If checked |
| | | 0 | If not checked |
| 63 | (Q36-2) | | In elementary school (Gr 1) |
| | | 1 | If not checked |
| | | 0 | If checked |
| 64 | (Q36-3) | | In high school |
| | | 0 | If not checked |
| | | 1 | If checked |
| 65 | (Q36-4) | | In college |
| | | 0 | If not checked |
| | | 1 | If checked |
| 66 | (Q36-5) | | As an adult |
| | | 0 | If not checked |
| | | 1 | If checked |

| Column # | Question # |  | Code | Content |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 67 | (Q-37) |  |  | When was the last time you went to the library? |
|  |  |  | 1 | Don't know |
|  |  |  | 2 | Never |
|  |  |  | 3 | Over 6 months ago |
|  |  |  | 4 | Within the last 6 months |
|  |  |  | 5 | Within the last month |
|  |  |  | 6 | Within the last week |
|  |  |  | 9 | N.A. |
| 68 | (Q38-1)AGREE-DISAGREE |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1 | 0 | The library is a pleasant place to spend a few hours. |
| 69 | (Q38-2) | 0 | 1 | Librarians care more about books than they care about people |
| 70 | (Q38-3) | 0 | 1 | The library is mostly for students. |
| 71 | (Q38-4) | 1 | 0 | The library provides a valuable service to the community. |
| 72 | (Q38-5) | 0 | 1 | If a person cannot read well, there is no use going to the library. |
| 73 | (38-6) | 1 | 0 | Librarians can suggest good books for a person to read. |
| 74 | (Q38-7) | 1 | 0 | Librarians will help a person find what he is looking for if he asks for help. |
| 75 | (Q38-8) | 0 | 1 | It is too hard to find what you want in the library. |
| 76 | (Q38-9) | 0 | 1 | The library is a place where you can only whisper not talk out loud. |
| 77 | (Q38-10) | 1 | 0 | The library has programs to help people. |

NOTE: If a part is not answered, code "0", as this is coded to indicate positive attitudes to library and librarians.

## LIST A. OCCUPATION CLASSIFICATION (125 ITEMS) FOR TOTAL AND WHITE MALES PRESENTED IN TABLE 1

4.) Professional, Technical and Kindred Workers
- Accountants
- Clergymen
- Computer specialists
- Engineers: includes chemical, industrial, metallurgical and materials, mining, and petroleum engineers, not shown separately.
  - Aeronautical and astronautical
  - Civil
  - Electrical and electronic
  - Mechanical
  - Sales
- Lawyers and judges
- Life and physical scientists: includes atmospheric and space and marine scientists, not shown separately.
  - Agricultural scientists
  - Biological scientists
  - Chemists
  - Geologists
  - Physicists and astronomers
- Mathematical specialists
  - Actuaries and statisticians
  - Mathematicians
- Operations and system researchers and analysts
- Physicians, dentists, and related practitioners; includes chiropractors, optometrists, pharmacists, podiatrists, and veterinarians, not shown separately.
  - Dentists
  - Physicians, medical and osteopathic
- Health technologists and technicians: includes health record technologists and technicians and therapy assistants, not shown separately.
  - Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians
  - Dental hygienists
  - Radiologic technologists and technicians
- Social scientists: includes political scientists and urban and regional planners, not shown separately.
  - Economists
  - Psychologists
  - Sociologists
- Social and recreation workers
- Teachers, college and university
- Elementary school teachers
- Secondary school teachers
- Engineering and science technicians: includes agricultural, biological, and mechanical engineering technicians; and surveyors, not shown separately

  - Draftsmen
  - Electrical and electronic engineering technicians
  - Industrial engineering technicians
  - Mathematical technicians
- Technicians, except health and engineering; includes embalmers and numerical control tool programmers, not shown separately.
  - Airplane pilots
  - Air traffic controllers
  - Radio operators
- Writers, artists, and entertainers: includes actors, athletes, authors, dancers, painters and sculptors, photographers, and public relations men and publicity writers, not shown separately.
  - Designers
  - Editors and reporters
  - Musicians and composers
  - Radio and television announcers
- All other professional, technical, and kindred workers; includes architects; farm management advisors; foresters and conservationists; home management advisors; librarians; archivists and curators; personnel and labor relations workers; nurses, dietitians, and therapists; religious workers, n.e.c.; adult education teachers; pre-kindergarten teachers; teachers, except college and university, n.e.c.; vocational and educational counselors; and research workers, not specified.

## Managers and Administrators, Except Farm

- Bank officers and financial managers
- Buyers, wholesale and retail trade
- Inspectors, except construction; public administration
- Officials and administrators, public administration, n.e.c.
- Purchasing agents and buyers, n.e.c.
- Restaurant, cafeteria and bar managers
- Sales managers and department head, retail trade
- Sales managers, except retail trade
- School administrators, college
- School administrators, elementary and secondary
- Managers and administrators, n.e.c.
- All other managers and administrators, except farm: includes assessors, controllers, and treasurers in local public administration; buyers and shippers of farm products; credit men; funeral directors; health administrators; construction inspectors in public administration; building managers and superintendents; office managers and superintendents; office managers, n.e.c.; ship officers, pilots, and pursers; superintendents; and railroad conductors.

### Sales Workers

Demonstrators, hucksters and peddlers
Insurance agents, brokers, and underwriters
Real estate agents and brokers
Salesmen and sales clerks, retail trade
Salesmen and sales clerks, n.e.c.
All other sales workers; includes advertising agents and salesmen; auctioneers; newsboys; and stock and bond salesmen.

### Clerical and Kindred Workers

Bank tellers
Bookkeepers
Cashiers
Mail carriers, post office
Payroll and timekeeping clerks
Postal clerks
Shipping and receiving clerks
All other clerical and kindred workers; includes billing clerks; social welfare clerical assistants; clerical supervisors, n.e.c.; bill and account collectors; counter clerks, except food; vehicle dispatchers and starters; enumerators and interviewers; estimators and investigators, n.e.c.; expediters and production controllers; file clerks; insurance adjustors, examiners, and investigators; library attendants and assistants, mail handlers, except post office; messengers and office boys; meter readers, utilities; office machine operators; proofreaders; real estate appraisers; receptionists; secretaries; statistical clerks, stenographers; stock clerks and storekeepers; teachers aides, except school monitors; telegraph messengers and operators; telephone operators; ticket, station, and express agents; typists; weighers; and miscellaneous and not specificed clerical workers.

### 3.) Craftsmen and Kindred Workers

Brick masons and stone masons
Carpenters
Cement and concrete finishers
Compositors and typesetters
Electricians
Foremen, n.e.c.
Job and die setters, metal
Linemen and servicemen, telephone and power
Locomotive engineers
Machinists
Mechanics and repairmen: includes mechanics and repairmen of: air conditioning, heating and refrigeration; data processing machines; farm implements; heavy equipment; household appliances; looms; office machines; and railroad cars, not shown separately.

Aircraft
Automobile
Radio and television

Painters, construction and maintenance

Plasterers

Plumbers and pipe fitters

Pressmen and plate printers, printing

Sheetmetal workers and tinsmiths

Tool and die makers

Other construction craftsmen: includes excavating, grading, and road machine operators; floor layers; paperhangers; roofers and slaters; structural metal craftsmen; and tile setters.

Other metal craftsmen: includes blacksmiths; boilermakers; forgemen and hammermen; heat treaters, annealers, and temperers; millwrights; metal molders, pattern and model makers; metal rollers and finishers; and shipfitters.

All other craftsmen; includes bookbinders; electrotypers; and photoengravers and lithographers.

All other craftsmen and kindred workers; includes automobile accessories installers; bakers; cabinetmakers and carpet installers; cranemen, derrickmen, and hoistmen; decorators and window dressers; dental laboratory technicians; engravers, except photoengravers; furniture and wood finishers; furriers; glaziers; log and lumber inspectors; scalers, and graders; inspectors, n.e.c.; jewelers and watchmakers; locomotive firemen; grain, flour, and feed millers; motion picture projectionists; opticians, and lens grinders and polishers; piano and organ tuners, and repairmen; power station operators; shoe repairmen; sign painters; and letterers; stationary engineers; stone cutters and stone carvers; tailors; upholsterers; and craftsmen and kindred workers, n.e.c.

Operatives, Except Transport

Mine operatives, n.e.c.

All other operatives, except transport; includes asbestos and insulation workers; assemblers; blasters and powdermen; bottling and canning operatives; surveying chainmen, rodmen, and axmen; manufacturing checkers, examiners, and inspectors; clothing ironers and pressers; cutting operatives, n.e.c.; dressmakers and seamstresses, except factory; earth sanders, and buffers; furnacemen, smeltermen, and pourers; garage workers and gas station attendants; manufacturing graders and sorters; produce graders and packers, except factory and farm; metal heaters; laundry and dry cleaning operatives, n.e.c.; meat cutters, butchers, and meat wrappers; retail trade;

metal platters; milliners; mixing operatives; oilers and greasers, except auto; packers and wrappers, except meat and produce; painters, manufactured articles; photographic process workers; precision machine operatives; punch and stamping press operatives; riveters and fasteners; sailors and deckhands; sawyers; sewers and stitchers; shoemaking machine operatives; solderes; stationary firemen; textile operatives; welders and flame cutters; winding operatives, n.e.c.; and miscellaneous and not specified operatives.

Transport Equipment Operatives

Bus drivers
Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs
Truck drivers
All other transport equipment operatives: includes boatmen and canalmen; urban rail transit conductors and motormen; deliverymen and routemen; railroad brakemen and switchmen.

Laborers, Except Farm

Includes animal caretakers, except farm; carpenters' helpers; construction laborers; fishermen and oystermen; freight and material handlers; garbage collectors; gardeners and groundskeepers, except farm; longshoremen and stevedores; lumbermen, raftsmen, and woodchoppers; stock handlers; teamsters; vehicle washers and equipment cleaners; warehousemen, n.e.c.; and miscellaneous and not specified laborers.

2) Farmers and Farm Managers

Farm Laborers and Farm Foremen

Farm laborers, wage workers
All other farm laborers and farm foremen: includes farm foremen; farm laborers, unpaid family workers; and farm service laborers, self-employed.

1) Service Workers, Except Private Household

Barbers
Protective service workers: includes crossing guards and bridge tenders; guards and watchmen; marshals and constables; and sheriffs and bailiffs, not shown separately.
    Firemen, fire protection
    Policemen and detectives
All other service workers, except private household:

includes chambermaids and maids; cleaners and charwomen; janitors and sextons; bartenders; busboys; cooks, dishwashers; food counter and fountain workers; waiters; food workers, n.e.c.; dental assistants; health trainees; lay midwives; nursing aides, orderlies and attendants; practical nurses; airline stewardesses; attendants, recreation, amusement, and personal service, n.e.c.; baggage porters and bell-hops; boarding and lodginghouse keepers; bootblacks; child care workers; elevator operators; hairdressers and cosmetologists; housekeepers; school monitors; recreation and amusement ushers; and welfare service aides.

Private Household Workers

Includes child care workers; cooks; housekeepers; laundresses; and maids and servants.

# CODING INSTRUCTIONS FOR
# QUESTIONNAIRE ENTITLED
# "LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN KENTUCKY"
# CODE A

| Column No. | Question No. | Content | | Code |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 - 5 | Same Coding as on Card 1. | | | |
| 6 | | Card number | | A |
| 7 | 33a | Do you read books? | Yes | 2 |
| | | | No | 1 |

In question 33b through 33z and 35(1) through 35(16,) code 1 if the item is checked, code 0 if the item is not checked.

| Column No. | Question No. | Content | If checked | Not checked |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 33b | Adventure | 1 | 0 |
| 9 | 33c | Historical fiction | 1 | 0 |
| 10 | 33d | Romance | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | 33e | Westerns | 1 | 0 |
| 12 | 33f | Mysteries | 1 | 0 |
| 13 | 33g | Short stories | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | 33h | Science fiction | 1 | 0 |
| 15 | 33j | Animal stories | 1 | 0 |
| 16 | 33k | Humor | 1 | 0 |
| 17 | 33m | Biography | 1 | 0 |
| 18 | 33n | History | 1 | 0 |
| 19 | 33o | Travel | 1 | 0 |
| 20 | 33p | Current affairs | 1 | 0 |
| 21 | 33q | Religion | 1 | 0 |
| 22 | 33r | Business | 1 | 0 |
| 23 | 33s | Homemaking | 1 | 0 |
| 24 | 33t | Philosophy | 1 | 0 |
| 25 | 33u | Science | 1 | 0 |
| 26 | 33v | Nature | 1 | 0 |
| 27 | 33w | Art | 1 | 0 |
| 28 | 33x | Plays | 1 | 0 |
| 29 | 33y | Poetry | 1 | 0 |
| 30 | 33z | About music | 1 | 0 |
| 31 | 35(1) | Yard work or gardening | 1 | 0 |
| 32 | 35(2) | Take a vacation trip | 1 | 0 |
| 33 | 35(3) | Go driving for pleasure | 1 | 0 |
| 34 | 35(4) | Go to the movies | 1 | 0 |
| 35 | 35(5) | Go to plays or concerts | 1 | 0 |
| 36 | 35(6) | Participate in any kind of sports | 1 | 0 |

Card A (Cont.)

| Column No. | Question No. | Content | Code<br>If Cked. | <br>If Not Cked. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37 | 35(7) | Belong to a singing group | 1 | 0 |
| 38 | 35(8) | Play a musical instrument | 1 | 0 |
| 39 | 35(9) | Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. | 1 | 0 |
| 40 | 35(10) | Spend time at the library | 1 | 0 |
| 41 | 35(11) | Play cards or other games such as monopoly | 1 | 0 |
| 42 | 35(12) | Work jigsaw puzzles | 1 | 0 |
| 43 | 35(13) | Play bingo | 1 | 0 |
| 44 | 35(14) | Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, embroidery | 1 | 0 |
| 45 | 35(15) | Church or volunteer work | 1 | 0 |
| 46 | 35(16) | Listen to records | 1 | 0 |

|  |  |  | Cked | Not cked | Cked | Not cked |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 47-48 | 39(1) | Check out books | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 49-50 | 39(2) | Read magazines in library | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 51-52 | 39(3) | Read newspapers in library | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 53-54 | 39(4) | Look up answer to special question | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 55-56 | 39(5) | Use copying machine | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 57-58 | 39(6) | Listen to records | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 59-60 | 39(7) | Attend talk or movies | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 61-62 | 39(8) | Attend art exhibit | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 63-64 | 39(9) | Get an answer by telephone | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 65-66 | 39(10) | Check out film | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 67-68 | 39(11) | Check location on library map | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 69-70 | 39(12) | Borrow a picture for home use | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 71-72 | 39(13) | Check out talking books | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 73-74 | 39(14) | Visit a bookmobile | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 75-76 | 39(15) | Use the shut-in service | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 77-78 | 39(16) | Check out large print books | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 79-80 | 39(17) | Use a microcard reader | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

## CODE SHEET
## PRINTOUT ON CARD A

| Var. No. | |
|---|---|
| 001 | Adventure |
| 002 | Historical fiction |
| 003 | Romance |
| 004 | Westerns |
| 005 | Mysteries |
| 006 | Short stories |
| 007 | Science fiction |
| 008 | Animal stories |
| 009 | Humor |
| 010 | Biography |
| 011 | History |
| 012 | Travel |
| 013 | Current affairs |
| 014 | Religion |
| 015 | Business |
| 016 | Homemaking |
| 017 | Philosophy |
| 018 | Science |
| 019 | Nature |
| 020 | Art |
| 021 | Plays |
| 022 | Poetry |
| 023 | About music |

Page 2. Code Sheet - Printout on card A

| Var. No. | |
|---|---|
| 101 | Yard work or gardening |
| 102 | Take a vacation trip |
| 103 | Go driving for pleasure |
| 104 | Go to the movies |
| 105 | Go to plays or concerts |
| 106 | Participate in any kind of sports |
| 107 | Belong to a singing group |
| 108 | Play a musical instrument |
| 109 | Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. |
| 110 | Spend time at the library |
| 111 | Play cards or other games such as monopoly |
| 112 | Work jigsaw puzzles |
| 113 | Play bingo |
| 114 | Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery |
| 115 | Church or volunteer work |
| 116 | Listen to records |

Page 3. Code Sheet - Printout on card A.

| Var. No. | | Have used or have done | Would like to use or do |
|---|---|---|---|
| 247-248 | Check out books | | |
| 249-250 | Read magazines in the library | | |
| 251-252 | Read newspapers in the library | | |
| 253-254 | Look up answer to special question | | |
| 255-256 | Use copying machine | | |
| 257-258 | Listen to records | | |
| 259-260 | Attend talk or movie | | |
| 261-262 | Attend art exhibit | | |
| 263-264 | Get an answer by telephone | | |
| 265-266 | Check out film | | |
| 267-268 | Check location on library map | | |
| 269-270 | Borrow a picture for home use | | |
| 271-272 | Check out talking books | | |
| 273-274 | Visit a bookmobile | | |
| 275-276 | Use shut-in service | | |
| 277-278 | Check out large print books | | |
| 279-280 | Use microcard reader | | |

# DRAFTS I-IV

# LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN KENTUCKY

PRELIMINARY DRAFT
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
NOVEMBER 27, 1972

# LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN KENTUCKY

THE INSTITUTE OF LIFETIME LEARNING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SCHEDULE NO.

# LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN KENTUCKY

THE INSTITUTE OF LIFETIME LEARNING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NAME ______________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________ APT. NO. ___
(STREET)

____________________________
(CITY)

(1). SEX: ____ MALE
____ FEMALE

(2). RACE: ____ BLACK
____ WHITE
____ OTHER

(3). MARITAL STATUS:
___ NEVER MARRIED
___ MARRIED
___ SEPARATED
___ DIVORCED
___ WIDOWED

(4). HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD AND WHAT IS THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO YOU?

| NAME | RELATIONSHIP | AGE |
|---|---|---|
| ____________ | ____________ | ______ |
| ____________ | ____________ | ______ |
| ____________ | ____________ | ______ |
| ____________ | ____________ | ______ |
| ____________ | ____________ | ______ |

(5). EDUCATION: (PLEASE CIRCLE THE HIGHEST YEAR YOU COMPLETED)

| | |
|---|---|
| ELEMENTARY: | 1 2 3 4 5 7 8 |
| HIGH SCHOOL: | 1 2 3 4 |
| COLLEGE: | 1 2 3 4 |
| GRADUATE SCHOOL: | 1 2 3 4 |

OTHER: ________________________________

(6). WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR PRESENT HEALTH TO BE --

______ GOOD

______ FAIR

______ POOR

(7). COMPARED TO OTHER PERSONS ABOUT YOUR AGE, WOULD YOU SAY YOUR HEALTH IS:

_____ BETTER THAN OTHERS

______ ABOUT THE SAME AS OTHERS

_______ WORSE THAN OTHERS

(8). WHICH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BEST DESCRIBES YOUR ABILITY TO GET AROUND AT THE PRESENT TIME? (CHOOSE ONLY ONE)

_______ I CAN GO PRACTICALLY ANY PLACE I WANT.

_______ I CAN GET AROUND THE HOUSE, BUT SELDOM GO OUT.

_______ I CAN GET AROUND THE HOUSE, BUT IT IS HARD FOR ME.

_______ I SIT IN A CHAIR MOST OF THE DAY.

_______ I STAY IN BED MOST OF THE TIME.

(9). WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE YOU HAD YOUR EYES CHECKED BY:

_______ A DOCTOR

_______ A NURSE

_______ AT A CLINIC

(10). Do you wear glasses when you read? ___ Yes ___ No

(11). When you want to go some place, do you usually have transportation most of the time, only once in a while or hardly ever?

________ Most of the time

________ Only once in a while

________ Hardly ever

(12). When you need to do errands or go to social gatherings, do you usually

________ Walk

________ Take a bus or taxi

________ Drive your own car

________ Have someone else drive you where you need to go?

(13). Do you have a driver's license?

________ Yes

________ No

(14). Do you own a car?

________ Yes

________ No

(15). DO YOU HAVE A TELEPHONE?

_______ YES

_______ NO

IF YOU DO HAVE A TELEPHONE, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU VISITED WITH SOMEONE, EITHER FRIENDS OR RELATIVE ON THE TELEPHONE?

_______ JUST TODAY

_______ DURING THE LAST WEEK

_______ MORE THAN A WEEK AGO

(16). WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME SOMEONE, EITHER A FRIEND OR A RELATIVE, CAME TO VISIT YOU IN YOUR HOME OR APARTMENT?

_______ JUST TODAY

_______ DURING THE LAST WEEK

_______ OVER A MONTH AGO

(17). WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU VISITIED SOMEONE, EITHER A FRIEND OR A RELATIVE, IN THEIR HOME OR APARTMENT?

_______ JUST TODAY

_______ DURING THE LAST WEEK

_______ OVER A MONTH AGO

(18). PLEASE CIRCLE THE WORD AGREE OR DISAGREE FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. | I AM JUST AS HAPPY AS WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| B. | THESE ARE THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| C. | THIS IS THE DREARIEST TIME OF MY LIFE. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| D. | MOST OF THE THINGS I DO ARE BORING OR MONOTONOUS. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| E. | COMPARED TO OTHER PEOPLE, I GET DOWN IN THE DUMPS TOO OFTEN. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| F. | THE THINGS I DO ARE AS INTERESTING TO ME AS THEY EVER WERE. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| G. | I HAVE MADE PLANS FOR THINGS I HOPE TO DO IN THE FUTURE. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| H. | AS I GROW OLDER, THINGS SEEM BETTER THAN I THOUGHT THEY'D BE. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| I. | AS I LOOK BACK ON MY LIFE, I DIDN'T GET MOST OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS I WANTED. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| J. | AS I LOOK BACK ON MY LIFE, I AM FAIRLY WELL SATISFIED. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| K. | IN SPITE OF WHAT PEOPLE SAY, THE LOT OF THE AVERAGE PERSON IS GETTING WORSE NOT BETTER. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| L. | I HAVE GOTTEN MORE OF THE BREAKS IN LIFE THAN MOST PEOPLE I KNOW. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| M. | I EXPECT SOME INTERESTING THINGS TO HAPPEN TO ME IN THE FUTURE. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| N. | THERE IS NOT MUCH THAT I CAN DO ABOUT MOST OF THE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE TODAY. | AGREE | DISAGREE |
| O. | THINGS HAVE BECOME SO COMPLICATED IN THE WORLD TODAY THAT I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON. | AGREE | DISAGREE |

P. IN ORDER TO GET AHEAD IN THE WORLD TODAY, YOU ARE ALMOST FORCED TO DO SOME THINGS WHICH ARE NOT RIGHT. AGREE DISAGREE

Q. I AM NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN THE TV PROGRAMS, MOVIES, OR MAGAZINES THAT MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO LIKE. AGREE DISAGREE

R. I OFTEN FEEL LONELY. AGREE DISAGREE

(19). IN GENERAL, HOW HAPPY WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE?

_________ VERY HAPPY

_________ FAIRLY HAPPY

_________ NOT HAPPY

_________ DON'T KNOW

MARK AN "X" IN FRONT OF ONE OF EACH PAIR OF STATEMENTS THAT YOU AGREE WITH. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS.

(20). MOST OF THE TIME,

_________ I FEEL FREE TO DO THINGS.

_________ I DO NOT FEEL FREE TO DO THINGS.

(21). MOST OF THE TIME,

_________ I FEEL USELESS.

_________ I FEEL USEFUL.

(22). Most of the time,

________ I feel that the past is better than the future.

________ I look forward to the future.

(23). Most of the time,

________ I feel satisfied with life.

________ I feel dissatisfied with life.

(24). Most of the time,

________ I feel that people respect me as much as ever.

________ I feel that people do not treat me with as much respect as they should.

(25). Most of the time,

________ I keep busy.

________ Time hangs heavy on my hands.

(26). How much spare time do you have in a day to do something you want to do?

________ None

________ Less than a hour

________ One or two hours

________ Three to six hours

________ More than 6 hours

(27). ABOUT HOW MANY MEETINGS DID YOU ATTEND LAST MONTH?

_______ NONE

_______ ONE TO THREE MEETINGS

_______ FOUR TO SIX MEETINGS

_______ SIX TO TEN MEETINGS

_______ MORE THAN TEN MEETINGS

(28). DID YOU VOTE IN THE LAST NATIONAL ELECTION?

_______ YES _______ NO

NOW WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT.

(29). ARE PRESENTLY EMPLOYED?

NO: ______

______ RETIRED

______ LOOKING FOR WORK

YEAR LAST WORKED 19_____

NEVER WORKED _______

YES ______

______ PART TIME

______ FULL TIME

HOW LONG HAVE YOU HELD YOUR PRESENT JOB? _______

(30). WHAT TYPE OF WORK DID YOU USUALLY DO BEFORE RETIREMENT (OR TYPE OF WORK YOU DO NOW IF EMPLOYED)?

_______ HOUSEWIFE

DID YOU EVER WORK FOR WAGES OUTSIDE YOUR HOME?

________ YES ________ NO

IF YES, WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOU DO? ______

________________________________________

WHAT YEAR DID YOU LAST WORK? ________

_______ EMPLOYED

__________________________ JOB TITLE
(NOT THE NAME OF COMPANY OR INDUSTY)

DESCRIBE BRIEFLY THE MAJOR DUTIES IN THIS JOB ________________________________

________________________________________

(31). PLEASE CHECK THE SOURCES OF YOUR INCOME FOR THE LAST YEAR (1972).

A. _______ SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

B. _______ OLD AGE ASSISTANCE

C. _______ WITHDRAWALS FROM SAVINGS, SELLING ESTATE, OR CASHING BONDS

D. _______ GOVERNMENT PENSION

E. _______ PRIVATE PENSION

F. _______ GOVERNMENT PAYMENT BECAUSE OF SOME INJURY YOU HAD

G. _______ ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AT ALL

H. _______ INTEREST FROM INVESTMENTS OR RENT

I. _______ RELATIVES

J. _______ A JOB

K. _______ [✓ OTHER]

(32). ABOUT HOW MUCH IS YOUR MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME?

A. _______ LESS THAN $200

B. _______ OVER $200 BUT LESS THAN $500

C. _______ OVER $500 BUT LESS THAN $750

D. _______ OVER $750 BUT LESS THAN $1,000

E. _______ OVER $1,000

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE RETIRED, WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ON SOME ASPECTS OF RETIREMENT: (QUESTIONS 33, 34, 35, AND 36)

(33). WHEN YOU STOPPED WORKING, DID YOU STOP GRADUALLY OR ALL AT ONCE?

_______ GRADUALLY _______ ALL AT ONCE

(34). HOW DID IT HAPPEN THAT YOU STOPPED WORKING WHEN YOU DID?

_______ RETIRED BY COMPANY ON REACHING RETIREMENT AGE

_______ UNABLE TO FIND WORK AT REGULAR OCCUPATION

_______ WANTED TO ENJOY LEISURE

_______ HEALTH REASONS

_______ DID NOT ENJOY WORK

_______ FELT THAT OTHERS EXPECTED ME TO RETIRE

_______ SOME OTHER REASON: WHAT? __________

(35). WHEN YOU WERE WORKING, WHAT TWO THINGS WERE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU? (CHECK TWO)

_______ MIXING WITH PEOPLE

_______ FEELING USEFUL

_______ BEING RESPECTED BY OTHERS

_______ NEW THINGS WERE HAPPENING ON THE JOB

_______ IT BROUGHT IN MONEY

_______ THE WORK ITSELF WAS INTERESTING

(36). RETIREMENT HAS BEEN BETTER THAN I EXPECTED, ABOUT THE SAME AS I EXPECTED, OR WORSE THAN I EXPECTED.

_______ BETTER _______ ABOUT THE SAME _____ WORSE

(37). Would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with your housing situation?

_______ Satisfied

_______ Dissatisfied

_______ Don't know

(38). Would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of life in your community?

_______ Satisfied

_______ Dissatisfied

_______ Don't know

(39). Would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the future facing you and your family?

_______ Satisfied

_______ Dissatisfied

_______ Don't know

(40). Would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the family income?

_______ Satisfied _______ Don't know

_______ Dissatisfied

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT BOOKS AND READING. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. PLEASE MARK AN "X" IN EITHER THE AGREE COLUMN OR THE DISAGREE COLUMN FOR EACH STATEMENT.

| (41). | AGREE | DISAGREE |
|---|---|---|
| A. READING IS FOR LEARNING BUT NOT FOR ENJOYMENT. | ____ | ____ |
| B. MONEY SPENT ON BOOKS IF WELL SPENT. | ____ | ____ |
| C. THERE IS VERY LITTLE TO BE GAINED FROM READING BOOKS. | ____ | ____ |
| D. READING IS A GOOD WAY TO SPEND SPARE TIME. | ____ | ____ |
| E. BOOKS AREN'T USUALLY GOOD ENOUGH TO FINISH READING. | ____ | ____ |
| F. READING IS REWARDING TO ME. | ____ | ____ |
| G. MOST BOOKS ARE TOO LONG. | ____ | ____ |
| H. THERE ARE MANY BOOKS WHICH I CAN DO WITHOUT. | ____ | ____ |
| I. READING IS SOMETHING I CAN DO WITHOUT. | ____ | ____ |
| J. BOOKS MAKE GOOD PRESENTS. | ____ | ____ |

THE FOLLOWING GROUPS OF QUESTIONS INVOLVE SOME OF THE WAYS PEOPLE SPEND THEIR SPARE TIME. COULD YOU GIVE US SOME INFORMATION ON HOW YOU SPEND YOURS?

(42). DO YOU WATCH TELEVISION? ___ YES ___ NO

IF YES, DO YOU WATCH A NEWS PROGRAM ALMOST EVERY DAY? ___ YES ___ NO

DO YOU FOLLOW ANY PARTICULAR SPORTING EVENTS ON TV? WHICH ONES: ____________________

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAMS? LIST THREE.

________________________________

________________________________

________________________________

(43). DO YOU LISTEN TO RECORDS? _____ YES _____ NO

IF YES, WHAT KINDS OF RECORDS DO YOU PREFER? ___

________________________________________

(44). DO YOU READ A NEWSPAPER? _____ YES _____ NO

IF YES, WHAT ONES ? ________________________

________________________________________

(45). DO YOU READ MAGAZINES? _____ YES _____ NO

IF YES, WHICH ARE YOUR FAVORITES? ____________

________________________________________

(46). Do you read books? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, check the kinds of books you enjoy.

A. _____ Romantic novels

B. ____ Historical novels

C. ____ Science fiction

D. ____ How-to-do-it books

E. ____ Books on homemaking

F. ____ Biographies

G. ____ Science

H. ____ Religious books

I. ____ Travel books

J. ____ Current best sellers

K. ____ Detective stories

L. ____ Books on a hobby I enjoy. What hobby?

M. ____ Other kinds of books? _______________

_______________________________________

(47). Do you belong to the Book of the Month Club or some other club that sends you books through the mail?

_____ Yes _____ No

(48). Do you buy or borrow hard cover books?

_____ Yes _____ No

(49). Do you buy or borrow paperbooks -- the kinds you can buy at supermarkets or drugstores?

_____ Yes _____ No

(50). Do you do any yard work or gardening? ___ Yes ___ No

(51). Do you travel or just go driving for pleasure?

_____ Yes _____ No

(52). Do you go to movies? _____ Yes _____ No

(53). Do you go to plays or concerts? _____ Yes _____ No

(54). Do you participate in any sports such as shuffleboard, bowling, swimming, fishing, etc.

_____ Yes _____ No

(55). Do you belong to any singing group or play a musical instrument? _____ Yes _____ No

(56). Do you attend sporting events, for example, basketball, or football games, horse or dog races?

_____ Yes _____ No

(57). Do you play cards or other games such as Monopoly or checkers? _____ Yes _____ No

(58). Do you do any kind of sewing, needlepoint or embroidery? _____ Yes _____ No

(59). Do you visit friends or have friends visit you fairly often? _____ Yes _____ No

(60). Do you do church or volunteer work? _____ Yes _____ No

(61). Do you have any other special hobby or hobbies?

_____ Yes _____ No

(62). Do you spend any time at the library? _____ Yes _____ No

(63). Was there ever a time in your life when you used the library quite a lot?

A. _____ In elementary school (Grades 1-6)

B. ____ In high school (7 through 12)

C. ____ In college

D. ____ Voluntarily, as an adult

E. ____ Never

(64). WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT TO A LIBRARY?

A. _____ WITHIN THE LAST WEEK

B. _____ WITHIN THE LAST MONTH

C. _____ WITHIN THE LAST SIX MONTHS

D. _____ OVER SIX MONTHS AGO

E. _____ NEVER

F. _____ DON'T KNOW

(65). IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN TO THE LIBRARY IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS, DO YOU KNOW WHERE A LIBRARY IS LOCATED?

_____ YES _____ NO

(66). HOW MANY BLOCKS IS IT FROM WHERE YOU LIVE TO THE LIBRARY?

A. _____ LESS THAN 3 BLOCKS

B. _____ 4 TO 6 BLOCKS

C. _____ 7 TO 9 BLOCKS

D. _____ MORE THAN 9 BLOCKS

(67). I CAN MOST EASILY GET TO THE LIBRARY BY:

A. _____ WALKING

B. _____ TAKING A BUS OR TAXI

C. _____ HAVING SOMEONE ELSE DRIVE ME TO THE LIBRARY

D. _____ DRIVING MY OWN CAR

E. _____ NEVER GO TO THE LIBRARY

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME STATEMENTS ABOUT LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. JUST PUT AN "X" UNDER THE AGREE OR DISAGREE COLUMNS TO SHOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE STATEMENT.

(68).

| | AGREE | DISAGREE |
|---|---|---|
| A. THE LIBRARY IS A PLEASANT PLACE TO SPEND A FEW HOURS. | ____ | ____ |
| B. LIBRARIANS CARE MORE ABOUT BOOKS THEN THEY CARE ABOUT PEOPLE. | ____ | ____ |
| C. THE LIBRARY IS MOSTLY FOR STUDENTS. | ____ | ____ |
| D. THE LIBRARY PROVIDES A VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. | ____ | ____ |
| E. IF A PERSON CANNOT READ WELL, THERE IS NO USE GOING TO THE LIBRARY. | ____ | ____ |
| F. LIBRARIANS CAN SUGGEST GOOD BOOKS FOR A PERSON TO READ. | ____ | ____ |
| G. LIBRARIANS WILL HELP A PERSON FIND WHAT HE IS LOOKING FOR IF HE ASKS FOR HELP. | ____ | ____ |
| H. IT IS TOO HARD TO FIND WHAT YOU WANT IN THE LIBRARY. | ____ | ____ |
| I. THE LIBRARY IS A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN ONLY WHISPER, NOT TALK OUT LOUD. | ____ | ____ |
| K. THE LIBRARY HAS PROGRAMS TO HELP PEOPLE. | ____ | ____ |

MANY LIBRARIES PROVIDE SOME OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES -- PLEASE CHECK THE ONES YOU HAVE DONE OR HAVE USED IN THE FIRST COLUMN AND THE ONES YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE IN THE SECOND COLUMN.

| (69). | HAVE USED OR HAVE DONE | WOULD LIKE TO USE OR DO |
|---|---|---|
| A. CHECK OUT BOOKS. | ____ | ____ |
| B. READ MAGAZINES IN THE LIBRARY. | ____ | ____ |
| C. READ NEWSPAPERS IN THE LIBRARY. | ____ | ____ |
| D. GO TO THE LIBRARY TO LOOK UP THE ANSWER TO A SPECIAL QUESTION. | ____ | ____ |
| E. USE THE COPYING MACHINE. | ____ | ____ |
| F. LISTEN TO RECORDS. | ____ | ____ |
| G. ATTEND A TALK OR MOVIE PROGRAM. | ____ | ____ |
| H. ATTEND AN ART EXHIBIT. | ____ | ____ |
| I. CALL ON THE TELEPHONE TO GET AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION. | ____ | ____ |
| J. CHECK OUT A FILM FOR USE WITH SOME CLUB ACTIVITY. | ____ | ____ |

(69). CONTINUED:

| | HAVE USED OR HAVE DONE | WOULD LIKE TO USE OR DO |
|---|---|---|
| K. CHECK THE LOCATION ON A LIBRARY MAP OF SOME PLACE YOU'VE HEARD OF BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS. | ____ | ____ |
| L. BORROW A PICTURE TO HANG ON YOUR WALL AT HOME. | ____ | ____ |
| M. CHECK OUT "TALKING BOOKS" OR CASSETTES. | ____ | ____ |
| N. VISIT A BOOKMOBILE. | ____ | ____ |
| O. USE THE "SHUT-IN" SERVICE WHERE BOOKS ARE BROUGHT TO PEOPLE UNABLE TO GO TO THE LIBRARY. | ____ | ____ |
| P. CHECK OUT BOOKS WITH SPECIAL LARGE PRINT THAT IS EASIER TO READ. | ____ | ____ |
| Q. USE A MICROCARD READER. | ____ | ____ |

# NOTES

Questions 18a through 18m constitue Life Satisfaction Index, From Z. See Adams, Journal of Gerontology, Vol. 24, No. 40 (1969), pp. 470-474.

Questions 18n through 18r include alienatation items which include powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, cultural estrangement and social estrangement, American Sociological Review, 28:973-977 (1963). See also Measures of Social Psychological Attitudes, p. 196. (Survey Research Center, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1969).

Questions 20 through 25 concern self-concept items. See Anderson, H.E., "Regression, Discriminant Analysis and a Standard Notation for Basic Statistics, and R.B. Cattell, Handbook of Multivariate Experimental Psychology (Chicago, 1966).

Question 41. Adapted from Estes, T.H., "Scale to Measure Attitudes toward Reading," Journal of Reading, 15:135-138 (Nov., 1971).

# REVISION #2

REVISION #2

# LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN KENTUCKY

## NRTA/AARP KENTUCKY LIBRARY PROJECT

The Institute Of Lifetime Learning
Washington, D.C.

February 1, 1973

Schedule No.

# LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN KENTUCKY

The Institute Of Lifetime Learning
Washington, D.C.

1. Sex: (1) ____Male (2) ____Female 1 2
2. Race: (1) ____Black (2) ____White (3) ____Other 1 2 3
3. How old were you on your last birthday?
   (1) ____Under 55 (4) ____70 to 74 1 2 3
   (2) ____55 to 64 (5) ____75 to 79 4 5 6
   (3) ____65 to 69 (6) ____Over 80
4. What is your marital status now?
   (1) ____Never married (4) ____Divorced 1 2 3
   (2) ____Married (5) ____Widowed 4 5
   (3) ____Separated
5. Education: (Please put a circle around the highest year you finished.)
   Elementary: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 1 2 3
   High School: 1 2 3 4 4 5 6
   College: 1 2 3 4 7
   Graduate School: 1 2 3 4
   Other: ______________________

---

Name:______________________________

Address:______________________________ Apt. No.________
(Street)
______________________________
(City)

6. HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD AND WHAT IS THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO YOU? (FOR EXAMPLE, HUSBAND, WIFE, MOTHER, ETC.) DO NOT LIST THOSE WHO ARE JUST VISITING.

| RELATIONSHIP | AGE |
|---|---|
| ______________________ | _____ |
| ______________________ | _____ |
| ______________________ | _____ |
| ______________________ | _____ |
| ______________________ | _____ |

7. WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR PRESENT HEALTH TO BE

(1) ___GOOD (2) ___FAIR (3) ___POOR 1 2 3

8. WHICH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BEST DESCRIBES YOUR ABILITY TO GET AROUND AT THE PRESENT TIME? (CHOOSE ONLY ONE)

(1) ___I CAN GO PRACTICALLY ANY PLACE I WANT. 1 2 3
(2) ___I CAN GET AROUND THE HOUSE, BUT SELDOM GO OUT. 4 5
(3) ___I CAN GET AROUND THE HOUSE, BUT IT IS HARD FOR ME.
(4) ___I SIT IN A CHAIR MOST OF THE DAY.
(5) ___I STAY IN BED MOST OF THE TIME.

9. WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE YOU HAD YOUR EYES CHECKED BY (1) __A DOCTOR (2) __A NURSE 1 2 3
(3) __AT A CLINIC (4) __NOT CHECKED 4

10. DO YOU WEAR GLASSES WHEN YOU READ?

(1) __YES (2) __NO 1 2

11. When you want to go some place, do you usually have transportation most of the time, only once in a while, or hardly ever?

(1) ___Most of the time (2) ___Only once in a while 1 2 3
(3) ___Hardly ever

12. When you need to do errands or go to social gatherings, do you usually

(1) ___Walk (2) ___Take a bus or taxi 1 2 3
(3) ___Drive your own car 4
(4) ___Have someone else drive you where you need to go?

13. Do you own a car? (1) ___Yes (2) ___No 1 2

14. Do you have a telephone? (1)___Yes (2)___No 1 2

15. If you have a telephone, when was the last time you visited with someone, either friends or relatives, on the telephone?

(1) ___Just today (2) ___During the last week
(3) ___More than a week ago 1 2 3

16. When was the last time someone, either a friend or a relative, came to visit you in your home or apartment?

(1) ___Just today 1 2 3
(2) ___During the last week
(3) ___More than a month ago

17. When was the last you YOU visited someone, either a friend or a relative, in their home or apartment?

(1) ___Just today 1 2 3
(2) ___During the last week
(3) ___Over a month ago

18. About how many meetings did you attend last month?

(1) ___None 1 2 3
(2) ___One to three meetings 4 5
(3) ___Four to six meetings
(4) ___Six to ten meetings
(5) ___More than ten meetings

19. Did you vote in the last national election?

(1) ___Yes (2) ___No 1 2

20. PLEASE CIRCLE EITHER THE WORD AGREE OR DISAGREE FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. I am just as happy as when I was younger. | Agree | Disagree | 1 0 |
| B. These are the best years of my life | Agree | Disagree | 1 0 |
| C. This is the dreariest time of my life. | Agree | Disagree | 0 1 |
| D. Most of the things I do are boring and monotonous. | Agree | Disagree | 0 1 |
| E. Compared to other people, I get down in the dumps too often. | Agree | Disagree | 0 1 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| F. THE THINGS I DO ARE AS INTERESTING TO ME AS THEY EVER WERE. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 1 0 |
| G. I HAVE MADE PLANS FOR THINGS I HOPE TO DO IN THE FUTURE. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 1 0 |
| H. AS I GROW OLDER, THINGS SEEM BETTER THAN I THOUGHT THEY'D BE. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 1 0 |
| I. AS I LOOK BACK ON MY LIFE, I DIDN'T GET MOST OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS I WANTED. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 0 1 |
| J. AS I LOOK BACK OVER MY LIFE, I AM FAIRLY WELL SATISFIED. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 1 0 |
| K. IN SPITE OF WHAT PEOPLE SAY, THE LOT OF THE AVERAGE PERSON IS GETTING WORSE NOT BETTER. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 0 1 |
| L. I HAVE GOTTEN MORE OF THE BREAKS IN LIFE THAN MOST PEOPLE I KNOW. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 1 0 |
| M. I EXPECT SOME INTERESTING THINGS TO HAPPEN TO ME IN THE FUTURE. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 1 0 |

21. IN GENERAL, HOW HAPPY WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE?

(1) ___VERY HAPPY (3) ___NOT HAPPY 1 2 3

(2) ___FAIRLY HAPPY (4) ___DON'T KNOW 4

22. PLEASE CIRCLE EITHER THE WORD AGREE OR DISAGREE FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) IN ORDER TO GET AHEAD IN THE WORLD TODAY, YOU ARE ALMOST FORCED TO DO SOME THINGS WHICH ARE NOT RIGHT. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 1 0 |
| (2) I AM NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN THE TV PROGRAMS, MOVIES, OR MAGAZINES THAT MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO LIKE. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 1 0 |
| (3) I OFTEN FEEL LONELY. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 1 0 |

(4) THERE IS NOT MUCH THAT I CAN DO ABOUT MOST OF THE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE TODAY. AGREE DISAGREE 1 0

(5) THINGS HAVE BECOME SO COMPLICATED IN THE WORLD, TODAY THAT I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON. AGREE DISAGREE 1 0

NOW WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT.

23. AT THE PRESENT TIME, DO YOU WORK FOR WAGES OR SALARY?

YES___ PART TIME___ FULL TIME____

HOW LONG HAVE YOU HELD THIS JOB? __________________

DESCRIBE BRIEFLY THE MAJOR DUTIES IN THIS JOB.______

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

NO___

RETIRED____

LOOKING FOR WORK____

NEVER WORKED________

---

FOR WOMEN ONLY

24. DID YOU EVER WORK FOR WAGES?

(1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

IF YES, WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOU DO?____________

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

WHAT WAS THE LAST YEAR YOU WORKED?_______________

25. PLEASE CHECK THE SOURCES OF YOUR INCOME FOR 1972.

(1) ___SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

(2) ___OLD AGE ASSISTANCE

(3) ___WITHDRAWALS FROM SAVINGS, SELLING REAL ESTATE OR CASHING BONDS

(4) ___STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PENSION

(5) ___PRIVATE OR COMPANY PENSION

(6) ___GOVERNMENT PAYMENT BECAUSE OF SOME INJURY YOU HAD

(7) ___ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AT ALL

(8) ___INTEREST FROM INVESTMENTS OR RENT

(9) ___RELATIVES

(10) ___A JOB

(11) ___OTHER

26. ABOUT HOW MUCH IS YOUR MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME?

(1) ___LESS THAN $200

(2) ___OVER $200 BUT LESS THAN $500

(3) ___OVER $500 BUT LESS THAN $750

(4) ___OVER $750 BUT LESS THAN $1,000

(5) ___OVER $1,000

1 2 3

4 5

FOR THOSE OF YOU ARE RETIRED, WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ON SOME ASPECTS OF RETIREMENT (QUESTIONS NO. R27, R28, R29, AND R30):

R27. WHAT TYPE OF WORK DID YOU USUALLY DO BEFORE RETIREMENT?

__________________________________________JOB TITLE

(NOT THE NAME OF COMPANY OR INDUSTRY)

DESCRIBE BRIEFLY THE MAJOR DUTIES OF THIS JOB:

______________________________________________

______________________________________________

HOW LONG DID YOU WORK AT THIS JOB?______________

R28. HOW DID IT HAPPEN THAT YOU STOPPED WORKING WHEN YOU DID?

(1) ___RETIRED ON REACHING RETIREMENT AGE 1 2 3
(2) ___UNABLE TO FIND WORK AT REGULAR OCCUPATION 4 5 6
7
(3) ___WANTED TO ENJOY LEISURE
(4) ___HEALTH REASONS
(5) ___DID NOT ENJOY THE WORK
(6) ___FELT THAT OTHERS EXPECTED ME TO RETIRE
(7) ___SOME OTHER REASON: WHAT?__________

_________________________________

R29. WHEN YOU WERE WORKING, WHAT TWO THINGS WERE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU? (CHECK TWO)

(1) ___MIXING WITH PEOPLE 1 2 3
(2) ___FEELING USEFUL 4 5 6
(3) ___BEING RESPECTED BY OTHERS
(4) ___NEW THINGS WERE HAPPENING ON THE JOB
(5) ___IT BROUGHT IN MONEY
(6) ___THE WORK ITSELF WAS INTERESTING

R30. RETIREMENT HAS BEEN BETTER THAN I EXPECTED, SAME AS I EXPECTED, OR WORSE THAN I EXPECTED.

(1) ___BETTER (2) ___ABOUT THE SAME 1 2 3
(3) ___WORSE

31. WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR HOUSING SITUATION?

(1) ___SATISFIED (2) ___DISSATISFIED 1 2 3
(3) ___DON'T KNOW

32. WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED WITH THE FAMILY INCOME?

(1) ___SATISFIED (2) ___DISSATISFIED 1 2 3
(3) ___DON'T KNOW

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT BOOKS AND READING. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. PLEASE MARK AN "X" IN EITHER THE AGREE COLUMN OR THE DISAGREE COLUMN FOR EACH STATEMENT:

| 33. | AGREE | DISAGREE | 0 1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. READING IS FOR LEARNING BUT NOT FOR ENJOYMENT. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |
| B. MONEY SPENT ON BOOKS IS WELL SPENT. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| C. THERE IS VERY LITTLE TO BE GAINED FROM READING BOOKS. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| D. READING IS A GOOD WAY TO SPEND SPARE TIME. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |
| E. BOOKS AREN'T USUALLY GOOD ENOUGH TO FINISH READING. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |

| | AGREE | DISAGREE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| F. READING IS REWARDING TO ME. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |
| G. MOST BOOKS ARE TOO LONG. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| H. THERE ARE MANY BOOKS WHICH I HOPE TO READ. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |
| I. READING IS SOMETHING I CAN DO WITHOUT. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| J. BOOKS MAKE GOOD PRESENTS. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |

34. HOW MUCH SPARE TIME TO YOU HAVE IN A DAY TO DO SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO?

(1) ___NONE (3) ___ONE TO TWO HOURS 1 2 3
(2) ___LESS THAN AN HOUR (4) ___THREE TO SIX HOURS 4 5

THE FOLLOWING GROUPS OF QUESTIONS INVOLVE SOME OF THE WAYS PEOPLE SPEND THEIR SPARE TIME. COULD YOU GIVE US SOME INFORMATION ON HOW YOU SPEND YOURS?

35. DO YOU WATCH TELEVISION? (1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

IF YES, DO YOU WATCH A NEWS PROGRAM ALMOST EVERY DAY?

____YES ____NO

DO YOU FOLLOW ANY PARTICULAR SPORTING EVENTS ON TV? WHICH ONES?______________________________

______________________________________

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAMS? LIST THREE.

______________________________________

______________________________________

______________________________________

36. Do you listen to records?

(1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

If yes, what kinds?______________________

________________________________________

37. Do you read a newspaper?

(1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

If yes, which ones?______________________

________________________________________

38. Do you read magazines?

(1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

If yes, which are your favorites?________

________________________________________

39. Do you read books?

(1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

If yes, check the kinds of books you enjoy.

A. ___ROMANTIC NOVELS
B. ___HISTORICAL NOVELS
C. ___SCIENCE FICTION
D. ___HOW-TO-DO-IT BOOKS
E. ___BOOKS ON HOMEMAKING
F. ___BIOGRAPHIES
G. ___SCIENCE
H. ___RELIGIOUS BOOKS
I. ___TRAVEL BOOKS
J. ___CURRENT BEST SELLERS
K. ___DETECTIVE STORIES

L. ___BOOKS ON A HOBBY I ENJOY. WHAT HOBBY?___________________________

M. ___OTHER. WHAT KINDS OF BOOKS?___
_________________________________

40. DO YOU BELONG TO THE BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB OR SOME OTHER CLUB THAT SENDS YOU BOOKS THROUGH THE MAIL?

(1) ____YES (2) ____NO 1 2

41. DO YOU BUY OR BORROW HARD COVER BOOKS?

(1) ____YES (2) ____NO 1 2

42. DO YOU BUY OR BORROW PAPERBACK BOOKS--THE KINDS YOU CAN BUY AT SUPERMARKETS OR DRUGSTORES?

(1) ____YES (2) ____NO 1 2

43. DO YOU SPEND ANY TIME AT THE LIBRARY?

(1) ____YES (2) ____NO 1 2

44. PLEASE CHECK ANY OF THE ACTIVITIES IN THE FOLLOWING LIST THAT YOU HAVE DONE DURING THE LAST YEAR--

(1) ___YARD WORK OR GARDENING
(2) ___TAKE VACATION TRIPS
(3) ___GO DRIVING FOR PLEASURE
(4) ___GO TO MOVIES
(5) ___GO TO PLAYS OR CONCERTS
(6) ___PARTICIPATE IN ANY SPORTS SUCH AS SHUFFLEBOARD, BOWLING, SWIMMING, ETC.

(7) ___BELONG TO A SINGING GROUP

(8) ___PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

(9) ___ATTEND SPORTING EVENTS SUCH AS BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, HORSE OR DOG RACES, ETC.

(10) ___SPEND TIME AT THE LIBRARY

(11) ___PLAY CARDS OR OTHER GAMES SUCH AS MONOPOLY

(12) ___WORK JIGSAW PUZZLES

(13) ___PLAY BINGO

(14) ___ANY KIND OF SEWING, NEEDLEPOINT, OR EMBROIDERY

(15) ___CHURCH OR VOLUNTEER WORK

(16) ___A SPECIAL HOBBY

WHAT IS IT?________________________________

45. WAS THERE EVER A TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU USED THE LIBRARY QUITE A LOT?

(1) ___NEVER 1 2 3

(2) ___IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GRADES 1-6) 4 5

(3) ___IN HIGH SCHOOL (7 THROUGH 12)

(4) ___IN COLLEGE

(5) ___VOLUNTARILY, AS AN ADULT

46. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT TO THE LIBRARY?

(1) ___WITHIN THE LAST WEEK 1 2 3

(2) ___WITHIN THE LAST MONTH 4 5 6

(3) ___WITHIN THE LAST SIX MONTHS

(4) ___OVER SIX MONTHS AGO

(5) ___NEVER

(6) ___DON'T KNOW

47. HOW MANY BLOCKS IS IT FROM WHERE YOU LIVE TO THE LIBRARY?

(1) ___LESS THAN 3 BLOCKS 1 2 3
(2) ___4 TO 6 BLOCKS 4 5
(3) ___7 TO 9 BLOCKS
(4) ___MORE THAN 9 BLOCKS
(5) ___DON'T KNOW

48. I CAN EASILY GET TO THE LIBRARY BY

(A) ___WALKING
(B) ___TAKING A BUS OR TAXI
(C) ___HAVING SOMEONE ELSE DRIVE ME TO THE LIBRARY
(D) ___DRIVING MY OWN CAR
(E) ___NEVER GO TO THE LIBRARY

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME STATEMENTS ABOUT LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. JUST PUT AN "X" UNDER THE AGREE OR DISAGREE COLUMNS TO SHOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE STATEMENT.

| 49. | AGREE | DISAGREE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. THE LIBRARY IS A PLEASANT PLACE TO SPEND A FEW HOURS. | ____ | _______ | 1 0 |
| B. LIBRARIANS CARE MORE ABOUT BOOKS THAN THEY CARE ABOUT PEOPLE. | ____ | _______ | 0 1 |
| C. THE LIBRARY IS MOSTLY FOR STUDENTS. | ____ | _______ | 0 1 |
| D. THE LIBRARY PROVIDES A VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. | ____ | _______ | 1 0 |

| | AGREE | DISAGREE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| E. IF A PERSON CANNOT READ WELL, THERE IS NO USE GOING TO THE LIBRARY. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| F. LIBRARIANS CAN SUGGEST GOOD BOOKS FOR A PERSON TO READ. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |
| G. LIBRARIANS WILL HELP A PERSON FIND WHAT HE IS LOOKING FOR IF HE ASKS FOR HELP. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |
| H. IT IS TOO HARD TO FIND WHAT YOU WANT IN THE LIBRARY. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| I. THE LIBRARY IS A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN ONLY WHISPER, NOT TALK ALOUD. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| J. THE LIBRARY HAS PROGRAMS TO HELP PEOPLE. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |

MANY LIBRARIES PROVIDE SOME OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES--PLEASE CHECK THE ONES YOU HAVE DONE OR HAVE USED IN THE FIRST COLUMN AND THE ONES YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO OR LIKE TO USE IN THE SECOND COLUMN.

| 50. | HAVE USED OR HAVE DONE | WOULD LIKE TO USE OR DO |
|---|---|---|
| A. CHECK OUT BOOKS. | ______ | _____ |
| B. READ MAGAZINES IN THE LIBRARY. | ______ | _____ |
| C. READ NEWSPAPERS IN THE LIBRARY. | ______ | _____ |
| D. GO TO THE LIBRARY TO LOOK UP THE ANSWER TO A SPECIAL QUESTION. | ______ | _____ |
| E. USE THE COPYING MACHINE. | ______ | _____ |
| F. LISTEN TO RECORDS. | ______ | _____ |
| G. ATTEND A TALK OR MOVIE PROGRAM. | ______ | _____ |

| | HAVE USED OR HAVE DONE | WOULD LIKE TO USE OR DO |
|---|---|---|
| H. ATTEND AN ART EXHIBIT. | | |
| I. CALL ON THE TELEPHONE TO GET AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION. | | |
| J. CHECK OUT A FILM FOR USE WITH SOME CLUB ACTIVITY. | | |
| K. CHECK THE LOCATION ON A LIBRARY MAP OF SOME PLACE YOU'VE HEARD OF BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS. | | |
| L. BORROW A PICTURE TO HANG ON YOUR WALL AT HOME. | | |
| M. CHECK OUT "TALKING BOOKS" OR TAPE CASSETTS. | | |
| N. VISIT A BOOKMOBILE. | | |
| O. USE THE "SHUT-IN" SERVICE WHERE BOOKS ARE BROUGHT TO PEOPLE UNABLE TO GO TO THE LIBRARY. | | |
| P. CHECK OUT BOOKS WITH SPECIAL LARGE PRINT THAT IS EASIER TO READ. | | |
| Q. USE A MICROCARD READER. | | |

# REVISION #3

REVISION #3

# LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN KENTUCKY

NRTA/AARP KENTUCKY LIBRARY PROJECT

THE INSTITUTE OF LIFETIME LEARNING

FEBRUARY 1, 1973

SCHEDULE NO.

# LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN KENTUCKY
## NRTA/AARP KENTUCKY LIBRARY PROJECT

The Institute Of Lifetime Learning
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. SEX: (1) ___Male (2) ___Female 1 2

2. RACE: (1) ___Black (2) ___White (3) ___Other 1 2 3

3. How old were you on your last birthday?
   (1) ___Under 55 (4) ___70 to 74 1 2 3
   (2) ___55 to 64 (5) ___75 to 79 4 5 6
   (3) ___65 to 69 (6) ___Over 80

4. What is your marital status now?
   (1) ___Never married (4) ___Divorced 1 2 3
   (2) ___Married (5) ___Widowed 4 5
   (3) ___Separated

5. EDUCATION: (Please put a circle around the highest year finished.)
   Elementary: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
   High School: 1 2 3 4
   College: 1 2 3 4
   Graduate School: 1 2 3 4
   OTHER:___________________________

---

NAME:_________________________________________

Address:______________________________________Apt. No._____
(STREET)
______________________________________________
(CITY)

6. HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?_____

WHAT IS THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO YOU?

| RELATIONSHIP | AGE |
|---|---|
| ____________ | _____ |
| ____________ | _____ |
| ____________ | _____ |
| ____________ | _____ |

7. WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR PRESENT HEALTH TO BE

(1) ___EXCELLENT (3) ___FAIR 1 2 3

(2) ___GOOD (4) ___POOR 4

8. PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WHICH SEEMS TO FIT YOU BEST.

(1) ___I CANNOT GET AROUND (OR KEEP HOUSE) AT ALL NOW BECAUSE OF MY HEALTH. 1 2 3 4

(2) ___I HAVE TO LIMIT SOME OF THE WORK OR THINGS THAT I DO.

(3) ___I AM NOT LIMITED IN MOST OF MY ACTIVITIES.

(4) ___I AM NOT LIMITED IN ANY OF MY ACTIVITIES.

9. WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS YOU HAD YOUR EYES CHECKED BY

(1) ___A DOCTOR (3) ___AT A CLINIC 1 2 3

(2) ___A NURSE (4) ___NOT CHECKED 4

10. DO YOU WEAR GLASSES WHEN YOU READ?

(1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

11. Are you being treated for

(1) ___Glaucoma 1 2 3

(2) ___Cataracts

(3) ___Neither

12. When you want to go some place, do you usually have transportation most of the time, only once in a while or hardly ever?

(1) ___Most of the time 1 2 3

(2) ___Only once in a while

(3) ___Hardly ever

13. When you need to do errands or go to social gatherings, do you usually

(1) ___Walk 1 2 3

(2) ___Take a bus or taxi 4

(3) ___Drive your own car

(4) ___Have someone else drive you where you want to go?

14. Do you own a car? (1) ___Yes (2) ___No 1 2

15. Do you have a telephone? (1) ___Yes (2)___No 1 2

16. If you do have a telephone, when was the last time you visited with someone, either friends or relatives on the telephone?

(1) ___Just today 1 2 3

(2) ___During the last week

(3) ___Within the last month

17. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU VISITED SOMEONE, EITHER A FRIEND OR A RELATIVE, IN THEIR HOME OR APARTMENT?

(1) ___JUST TODAY 1 2 3
(2) ___DURING THE LAST WEEK
(3) ___OVER A MONTH AGO

18. ABOUT HOW MANY MEETINGS DID YOU ATTEND LAST MONTH?

(1) ___NONE 1 2 3
(2) ___ONE TO THREE MEETINGS 4 5
(3) ___FOUR TO SIX MEETINGS
(4) ___SIX TO TEN MEETINGS
(5) ___MORE THAN TEN MEETINGS

19. DID YOU VOTE IN THE LAST NATIONAL ELECTION?

(1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

20. PLEASE MARK AN "X" IN EITHER THE AGREE OR DISAGREE COLUMN FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

| | AGREE | DISAGREE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I AM JUST AS HAPPY AS WHEN I WAS YOUNGER | ___ | ___ | 1 0 |
| 2. MOST OF THE THINGS I DO ARE BORING AND MONOTONOUS. | ___ | ___ | 0 1 |
| 3. COMPARED TO OTHER PEOPLE, I GET DOWN IN THE DUMPS TOO OFTEN. | ___ | ___ | 0 1 |
| 4. THE THINGS I DO ARE AS INTERESTING TO ME AS THEY EVER WERE. | ___ | ___ | 1 0 |
| 5. THIS IS THE LEAST HAPPY TIME OF MY LIFE. | ___ | ___ | 0 1 |

AGREE DISAGREE

6. I HAVE MADE PLANS FOR THINGS I HOPE TO DO IN THE FUTURE. ____ ________ 1 0

7. AS I GROW OLDER, THINGS SEEM BETTER THAN I THOUGHT THEY'D BE. ____ ________ 1 0

8. AS I LOOK BACK OVER MY LIFE, I AM FAIRLY WELL SATISFIED. ____ ________ 1 0

9. IN SPITE OF WHAT PEOPLE SAY, THE LOT OF THE AVERAGE PERSON IS GETTING WORSE NOT BETTER. ____ ________ 0 1

10. I HAVE NOT HAD THE BREAKS IN LIFE THAT MOST PEOPLE HAVE. ____ ________ 0 1

21. IN GENERAL, HOW HAPPY WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE?

(1) ___VERY HAPPY (3) ___NOT HAPPY 1 2 3

(2) ___FAIRLY HAPPY (4) ___DON'T KNOW 4

22. PLEASE MARK AN "X" IN EITHER THE AGREE OR DISAGREE COLUMN FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

AGREE DISAGREE

1. IN ORDER TO GET AHEAD IN THE WORLD TODAY, YOU ARE ALMOST FORCED TO DO SOME THINGS WHICH ARE NOT RIGHT. ____ ________ 1 0

2. I AM NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN THE TV PROGRAMS, MOVIES, OR MAGAZINES THAT MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO LIKE. ____ ________ 1 0

3. I OFTEN FEEL LONELY. ____ ________ 1 0

4. THERE IS NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT MOST OF THE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS WE FACE TODAY. ____ ________ 1 0

5. THINGS HAVE BECOME SO COMPLICATED IN THE WORLD TODAY THAT I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON. ____ ________ 1 0

NOW WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT.

23. AT THE PRESENT TIME, DO YOU WORK FOR WAGES OR SALARY?

YES___ (1) ___PART TIME (2) ___ FULL TIME

HOW LONG HAVE YOU HELD THIS JOB?

DESCRIBE BRIEFLY THE MAJOR DUTIES IN THIS JOB:

______________________________________________

______________________________________________

______________________________________________

NO___

(1) ___RETIRED

(2) ___LOOKING FOR WORK

(3) ___NEVER WORKED

---

24. (WOMEN ONLY)

DID YOU EVER WORK FOR WAGES? (1) ___YES (2) ___NO

IF YES, WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOU DO?______________

______________________________________________

WHAT WAS THE LAST YEAR YOU WORKED?________________

---

25. PLEASE CHECK THE SOURCES OF YOUR INCOME FOR 1972.

(1) ___SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

(2) ___OLD AGE ASSISTANCE

(3) ___WITHDRAWALS FROM SAVINGS, SELLING REAL ESTATE OR CASHING BONDS

(4) ___STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PENSION

(5) ___PRIVATE OR COMPANY PENSION

(6) ___Railroad pension

(7) ___Government payment because of some injury you had

(8) ___Any other government assistance at all

(9) ___Interest from investments or rent

(10) ___Relatives

(11) ___A job

(12) ___Other:____________________________

26. About how much is your monthly household income?

(1) ___Less than $200

(2) ___Over $200 but less than $500

(3) ___Over $500 but less than $750

(4) ___Over $750 but less than $1000

(5) ___Over $1000

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE RETIRED, WE'D LIKE YOUR OPINION ON SOME ASPECTS OF RETIREMENT. PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS R27, R28, R29, AND R30.

R27. WHAT TYPE OF WORK DID YOU USUALLY DO BEFORE RETIREMENT?

____________________________________________JOB TITLE
(NOT THE NAME OF COMPANY OR INDUSTRY)

DESCRIBE BRIEFLY THE MAJOR DUTIES OF THIS JOB:

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

HOW LONG DID YOU WORK AT THIS JOB?_______________

R28. HOW DID YOU HAPPEN THAT YOU STOPPED WORKING WHEN YOU DID?

(1) ___RETIRED ON REACHING RETIREMENT AGE. 1 2 3

(2) ___UNABLE TO FIND WORK AT REGULAR OCCUPATION. 4 5 6

7

(3) ___WANTED TO ENJOY LEISURE.

(4) ___HEALTH REASONS.

(5) ___DID NOT ENJOY THE WORK.

(6) ___FELT THAT OTHERS EXPECTED ME TO RETIRE.

(7) ___SOME OTHER REASON: WHAT?_______________

R29. WHEN YOU WERE WORKING, WHAT TWO THINGS WERE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU? (CHECK TWO)

(1) ___MIXING WITH PEOPLE 1 2 3

(2) ___FEELING USEFUL 4 5 6

(3) ___BEING RESPECTED BY OTHERS

(4) ___NEW THINGS WERE HAPPENING ON THE JOB

(5) ___IT BROUGHT IN MONEY

(6) ___THE WORK ITSELF WAS INTERESTING

R30. RETIREMENT HAS BEEN BETTER THAN I EXPECTED, ABOUT THE SAME AS I EXPECTED, OR WORSE THAN I EXPECTED.

(1) ___BETTER (3) ___WORSE 1 2 3

(2) ___ABOUT THE SAME

31. WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR HOUSING SITUATION?

(1) ___SATISFIED (3) ___DON'T KNOW 1 2 3

(2) ___DISSATISFIED

32. Would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the family income?

(1) ___Satisfied (3) ___Don't know 1 2 3

(2) ___Dissatisfied

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT BOOKS AND READING. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. PLEASE MARK AN "X" IN EITHER THE AGREE COLUMN OR THE DISAGREE COLUMN FOR EACH STATEMENT.

33.

| | | AGREE | DISAGREE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Reading is for learning but not for enjoyment. | ____ | ________ | 0 1 |
| 2. | Money spent on books is well spent. | ____ | ________ | 1 0 |
| 3. | There is very little to be gained from reading books. | ____ | ________ | 0 1 |
| 4. | Reading is a good way to spend spare time. | ____ | ________ | 1 0 |
| 5. | Books aren't usually good enough to finish reading. | ____ | ________ | 0 1 |
| 6. | Reading is rewarding to me. | ____ | ________ | 1 0 |
| 7. | Most books are too long. | ____ | ________ | 0 1 |
| 8. | There are many books which I hope to read. | ____ | ________ | 1 0 |
| 9. | Reading is something I can do without. | ____ | ________ | 0 1 |
| 10. | Books make good presents. | ____ | ________ | 1 0 |

34. How much spare time do you have in a day to do something you want to do?

(1) ___None 1 2 3

(2) ___Less than one hour 4 5

34. (CONTINUED)

(3) ___ONE TO TWO HOURS

(4) ___THREE TO SIX HOURS

(5) ___OVER SIX HOURS

THE FOLLOWING GROUPS OF QUESTIONS INVOLVE SOME OF THE WAYS PEOPLE SPEND THEIR SPARE TIME. COULD YOU GIVE US SOME INFORMATION ON HOW YOU SPEND YOURS?

35. DO YOU WATCH TELEVISION? (1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

ABOUT HOW MANY HOURS A DAY?________

36. DO YOU LISTEN TO RADIO? (1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

ABOUT HOW MANY HOURS A DAY?________

37. DO YOU READ A NEWSPAPER NEARLY EVERY DAY?

(1) ___YES (2) ___NO

IF YES, WHICH ONES?______________________________

__________________________________________________

38. DO YOU READ MAGAZINES? (1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

IF YES, WHICH ARE YOUR FAVORITES?___________

_____________________________________________

39. DO YOU READ BOOKS? (1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

IF YES, CHECK THE KINDS OF BOOKS YOU ENJOY.

FICTION:

ADVENTURE___
HISTORICAL___
ROMANCE____
WESTERNS___
SHORT STORIES___
MYSTERIES____
SCIENCE FICTION___
ANIMAL STORIES____
HUMOR___

39. (CONTINUED)

NONFICTION:

BIOGRAPHY___
HISTORY____
TRAVEL____
CURRENT AFFAIRS___
RELIGION___
BUSINESS___
HOMEMAKING___
PHILOSOPHY____
SCIENCE____
NATURE_____
ART_____
PLAYS____
POETRY___
ABOUT MUSIC___

40. WHAT BOOKS HAVE YOU READ OVER THE YEARS THAT YOU WOULD RECOMMEND AS BEING HIGHLY WORTHWHILE FOR OTHERS TO READ?

LIST AS MANY AS YOU WISH:___________________________

_____________________________________________

_____________________________________________

41. DO YOU BELONG TO THE BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB OR SOME OTHER CLUB THAT SENDS YOU BOOKS THROUGH THE MAIL?

(1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

42. DO YOU BUY OR BORROW HARD COVER BOOKS?

(1) ___YES (2) ___NO

43. DO YOU BUY OR BORROW PAPERBACK BOOKS--THE KINDS YOU CAN BUY AT SUPERMARKETS OR DRUGSTORES?

(1) ___YES (2) ___NO 1 2

44. PLEASE CHECK ANY OF THE ACTIVITIES IN THE FOLLOWING LIST THAT YOU HAVE DONE DURING THE LAST YEAR.

1. ___YARD WORK OR GARDENING
2. ___TAKE A VACATION TRIP

44. (CONTINUED)

3. ___GO DRIVING FOR PLEASURE
4. ___GO TO THE MOVIES
5. ___GO TO PLAYS OR CONCERTS
6. ___PARTICIPATE IN ANY SPORTS SUCH SHUFFLEBOARD, BOWLING, SWIMMING, ETC.
7. ___BELONG TO A SINGING GROUP
8. ___PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
9. ___ATTEND SPORTING EVENTS SUCH AS BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, HORSE OR DOG RACES, ETC.
10. ___SPEND TIME AT THE LIBRARY
11. ___PLAY CARDS OR OTHER GAMES SUCH AS MONOPOLY
12. ___WORK JIGSAW PUZZLES
13. ___PLAY BINGO
14. ___ANY KIND OF SEWING, NEEDLEPOINT, OR EMBROIDERY
15. ___CHURCH OR VOLUNTEER WORK
16. ___LISTEN TO RECORDS

45. WAS THERE EVER A TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU USED THE LIBRARY QUITE A LOT?

(1) ___NEVER 1 2 3
(2) ___IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GRADES 1-6) 4 5 6
(3) ___IN HIGH SCHOOL (7 THROUGH 12)
(4) ___IN COLLEGE
(5) ___AS AN ADULT

46. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT TO THE LIBRARY?

(1) ___WITHIN THE LAST WEEK 1 2 3
(2) ___WITHIN THE LAST MONTH 4 5 6
(3) ___WITHIN THE LAST SIX MONTHS
(4) ___OVER SIX MONTHS AGO
(5) ___NEVER
(6) ___DON'T KNOW

47. HOW MANY BLOCKS IS IT FROM WHERE YOU LIVE TO THE LIBRARY?

(1) ___LESS THAN 5 BLOCKS 1 2 3
(2) ___6 TO 10 BLOCKS 4
(3) ___MORE THAN 10 BLOCKS
(4) ___DON'T KNOW

48. I CAN MOST EASILY GET TO THE LIBRARY BY

(1) ___WALKING 1 2 3
(2) ___TAKING A BUS OR TAXI 4
(3) ___HAVING SOMEONE ELSE DRIVE ME THERE
(4) ___DRIVING MY OWN CAR
(5) ___NEVER GO TO THE LIBRARY

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME STATEMENTS ABOUT LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. JUST PUT AN "X" UNDER THE AGREE OR DISAGREE COLUMN TO SHOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE STATEMENT.

49. AGREE DISAGREE

1. THE LIBRARY IS A PLEASANT PLACE TO SPEND A FEW HOURS. _____ ________ 1 0

| 49. (CONTINUED) | AGREE | DISAGREE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. LIBRARIANS CARE MORE ABOUT BOOKS THAN THEY CARE ABOUT PEOPLE. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| 3. THE LIBRARY IS MOSTLY FOR STUDENTS. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| 4. THE LIBRARY PROVIDES A VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |
| 5. IF A PERSON CANNOT READ WELL, THERE IS NO USE GOING TO THE LIBRARY. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| 6. LIBRARIANS CAN SUGGEST GOOD BOOKS FOR A PERSON TO READ. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |
| 7. LIBRARIANS WILL HELP A PERSON FIND WHAT HE IS LOOKING FOR IF HE ASKS FOR HELP. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |
| 8. IT IS TOO HARD TO FIND WHAT YOU WANT IN THE LIBRARY. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| 9. THE LIBRARY IS A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN ONLY WHISPER, NOT TALK ALOUD. | ____ | ______ | 0 1 |
| 10. THE LIBRARY HAS PROGRAMS TO HELP PEOPLE. | ____ | ______ | 1 0 |

MANY LIBRARIES PROVIDE SOME OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES--PLEASE CHECK THE ONES YOU HAVE DONE OR HAVE USED IN THE FIRST COLUMN AND THE ONES YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO OR LIKE TO USE IN THE SECOND COLUMN.

| 50. | HAVE USED OR HAVE DONE | WOULD LIKE TO USE OR DO |
|---|---|---|
| 1. CHECK OUT BOOKS. | ______ | ______ |
| 2. READ MAGAZINES IN THE LIBRARY. | ______ | ______ |

| 50. (CONTINUED) | HAVE USED OR HAVE DONE | WOULD LIKE TO USE OR DO |
|---|---|---|
| 3. READ NEWSPAPER IN THE LIBRARY | ______ | ______ |
| 4. TO TO THE LIBRARY TO LOOK UP THE ANSWER TO A SPECIAL QUESTION | ______ | ______ |
| 5. USE THE COPYING MACHINE | ______ | ______ |
| 6. LISTEN TO RECORDS | ______ | ______ |
| 7. ATTEND A TALK OR MOVIE PROGRAM | ______ | ______ |
| 8. ATTEND AN ART EXHIBIT | ______ | ______ |
| 9. CALL ON THE TELEPHONE TO GET AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION | ______ | ______ |
| 10. CHECK OUT A FILM OR USE WITH SOME CLUB ACTIVITY | ______ | ______ |
| 11. CHECK THE LOCATION ON A LIBRARY MAP OF SOME PLACE YOU'VE HEARD OF BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS | ______ | ______ |
| 12. BORROW A PICTURE TO HANG ON YOUR WALL AT HOME | ______ | ______ |
| 13. CHECK OUT "TALKING BOOKS" OR TAPE CASSETTES | ______ | ______ |
| 14. VISIT A BOOKMOBILE | ______ | ______ |
| 15. USE THE "SHUT-IN" SERVICE WHERE BOOKS ARE BROUGHT TO PEOPLE UNABLE TO GO TO THE LIBRARY | ______ | ______ |
| 16. CHECK OUT BOOKS WITH SPECIAL LARGE PRINT THAT IS EASIER TO READ | ______ | ______ |

50. (CONTINUED)

| | HAVE USED OR HAVE DONE | WOULD LIKE TO USE OR DO |
|---|---|---|
| 17. USE A MICROBOARD READER | ______ | ______ |

# REVISION #4

# LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN KENTUCKY

NRTA/AARP KENTUCKY LIBRARY PROJECT

THE INSTITUTE OF LIFETIME LEARNING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FEBRUARY 1, 1973

REVISION #4

REV/4

SCHEDULE NO. ______

# LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF OLDER PERSONS IN KENTUCKY
NRTA/AARP KENTUCKY LIBRARY PROJECT
THE INSTITUTE OF LIFETIME LEARNING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. SEX: (1) _____ MALE (2) _____ FEMALE 1 2

2. RACE: (1) _____ BLACK (2) _____ WHITE (3) _____ OTHER 1 2 3

3. HOW OLD WERE YOU ON YOUR LAST BIRTHDAY?

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1) _____ UNDER 55 | (4) _____ 70 TO 74 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| (2) _____ 55 TO 64 | (5) _____ 75 TO 79 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| (3) _____ 65 TO 69 | (6) _____ OVER 80 | | | |

4. WHAT IS YOUR MARITAL STATUS NOW?

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1) _____ NEVER MARRIED | (4) _____ DIVORCED | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| (2) _____ MARRIED | (5) _____ WIDOWED | 4 | 5 | |
| (3) _____ SEPARATED | | | | |

5. EDUCATION: (PLEASE PUT A CIRCLE AROUND THE HIGHEST YEAR YOU FINISHED)

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ELEMENTARY: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| HIGH SCHOOL: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| COLLEGE: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | 7 | | |
| GRADUATE SCHOOL: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | |

OTHER: ______________________________________________

NAME: ______________________________________

ADDRESS: ______________________________________ APT. _____
(STREET)

______________________________________
(CITY)

6. HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD? _____

WHAT IS THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO YOU?

| RELATIONSHIP | AGE |
|---|---|
| _____________ | ___ |
| _____________ | ___ |
| _____________ | ___ |
| _____________ | ___ |
| _____________ | ___ |

7. WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR PRESENT HEALTH TO BE:

(1). _____ EXCELLENT (3). _____ FAIR 1 2 3

(2). _____ GOOD (4). _____ POOR 4

8. PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WHICH SEEMS TO FIT YOU BEST.

(1). ____ I CANNOT GET AROUND (OR KEEP HOUSE) AT ALL NOW BECAUSE OF MY HEALTH. 1 2 3

(2). ____ I HAVE TO LIMIT SOME OF THE WORK OR THINGS THAT I DO. 4

(3). ____ I AM NOT LIMITED IN MOST OF MY ACTIVITIES.

(4). ____ I AM NOT LIMITED IN ANY OF MY ACTIVITIES.

9. WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE YOU HAD YOUR EYES CHECKED BY:

(1). ____ A DOCTOR (3). ____ AT A CLINIC 1 2 3

(2). ____ A NURSE (4). ____ NOT CHECKED 4

10. DO YOU WEAR GLASSES WHEN YOU READ?

(1). ____ YES (2). ____ NO 1 2

11. ARE YOU BEING TREATED FOR

(1). _____ GLAUCOMA 1 2 3
(2). _____ CATARACTS
(3). _____ NEITHER

12. WHEN YOU NEED TO DO ERRANDS OR GO TO SOCIAL GATHERINGS, DO YOU USUALLY

(1). _____ WALK (3). _____ DRIVE YOUR OWN CAR 1 2 3
(2). _____ TAKE A BUS OR TAXI (4). _____ HAVE SOMEONE ELSE DRIVE YOU WHERE YOU WANT TO GO 4

13. DO YOU OWN A CAR? (1). ____ YES (2). ____ NO 1 2

14. DO YOU HAVE A TELEPHONE? (1). ____ YES (2). ____ NO 1 2

15. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU VISITED IN PERSON OR ON THE TELEPHONE WITH EITHER A FRIEND OR RELATIVE?

(1). _____ JUST TODAY 1 2 3
(2). _____ DURING THE LAST WEEK
(3). _____ OVER A MONTH AGO

16. ABOUT HOW MANY MEETINGS DID YOU ATTEND LAST MONTH?

(1). _____ NONE 1 2 3
(2). _____ 1 TO 3 MEETINGS 4 5
(3). _____ 4 TO 6 MEETINGS
(4). _____ 7 TO 10 MEETINGS
(5). _____ MORE THAN 10 MEETINGS

17. DID YOU VOTE IN THE LAST NATIONAL ELECTION?

(1). _____ YES (2). _____ NO 1 2

18. IN GENERAL, HOW HAPPY WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE? 1 2 3
(1). _____ VERY HAPPY 4
(2). _____ FAIRLY HAPPY
(3). _____ NOT HAPPY
(4). _____ DON'T KNOW

19. PLEASE ANSWER EACH STATEMENT THE BEST YOU CAN BY MARKING AN "X" IN EITHER THE AGREE OR DISAGREE COLUMN.

| | AGREE | DISAGREE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. IN ORDER TO GET AHEAD IN THE WORLD TODAY YOU ARE ALMOST FORCED TO DO SOME THINGS WHICH ARE NOT RIGHT. | _____ | _______ | 0 1 |
| B. I AM NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN THE TV PROGRAMS, MOVIES, OR MAGAZINES THAT MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO LIKE. | _____ | _______ | 0 1 |
| C. I OFTEN FEEL LONELY. | _____ | _______ | 0 1 |
| D. THERE IS NOT MUCH THAT I CAN DO ABOUT MOST OF THE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS WE FACE TODAY. | _____ | _______ | 0 1 |
| E. THINGS HAVE BECOME SO COMPLICATED IN THE WORLD TODAY THAT I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON. | _____ | _______ | 0 1 |

NOW WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE:

20. AT THE PRESENT TIME, DO YOU WORK FOR WAGES OR SALARY?

(1) _____ YES

(A) _____ PART TIME

(B) _____ FULL TIME

HOW LONG HAVE YOU HELD THIS JOB? _______

DESCRIBE BRIEFLY THE MAJOR DUTIES IN THIS JOB:

_______________________________________________

_______________________________________________

_______________________________________________

(2) _____ NO, I AM NOT WORKING AT THE PRESENT TIME.

(A) _____ RETIRED

WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOU USUALLY DO BEFORE RETIREMENT? _________________________ JOB TITLE

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE MAJOR DUTIES IN THIS JOB:

_______________________________________________

_______________________________________________

_______________________________________________

HOW LONG DID YOU WORK AT THIS JOB? ___________

(B) _____ I AM LOOKING FOR WORK.

(C) _____ I HAVE NEVER WORKED.

21. (WOMEN ONLY) DID YOU EVER WORK FOR WAGES?

(1). _____ YES (2). _____ NO 1 2

IF YES, WHAT KIND OF WORK DID YOU DO? ______________

WHAT WAS THE LAST YEAR YOU WORKED? _____________

22. RETIREMENT HAS BEEN BETTER THAN I EXPECTED, ABOUT THE SAME AS I EXPECTED, OR WORSE THAN I EXPECTED.

(1). _____ BETTER 1 2 3
(2). _____ ABOUT THE SAME
(3). _____ WORSE

23. PLEASE CHECK THE SOURCES OF YOUR INCOME FOR 1972.

(1). _____ SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS
(2). _____ OLD AGE ASSISTANCE
(3). _____ WITHDRAWALS FROM SAVINGS, SELLING REAL ESTATE OR CASHING BONDS
(4). _____ STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PENSION
(5). _____ PRIVATE OR COMPANY PENSION
(6). _____ RAILROAD PENSION
(7). _____ GOVERNMENT PAYMENT BECAUSE OF SOME INJURY
(8). _____ ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AT ALL
(9). _____ INTEREST FROM INVESTMENTS OR RENT
(10). _____ RELATIVES
(11). _____ A JOB
(12). _____ OTHER ______________________________

24. ABOUT HOW MUCH IS YOUR MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME?

(1). _____ LESS THAN $200 1 2 3
(2). _____ OVER $200 BUT LESS THAN $500 4 5
(3). _____ OVER $500 BUT LESS THAN $750
(4). _____ OVER $750 BUT LESS THAN $1,000
(5). _____ OVER $1,000

25. WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR HOUSING SITUATION?

(1). _____ SATISFIED 1 2 3
(2). _____ DISSATISFIED
(3). _____ DON'T KNOW

26. WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD INCOME?

(1). _____ SATISFIED 1 2 3
(2). _____ DISSATISFIED
(3). _____ DON'T KNOW

27. HOW MUCH SPARE TIME DO YOU HAVE IN A DAY TO DO SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO?

(1). _____ NONE 1 2 3
(2). _____ LESS THAN 1 HOUR 4 5
(3). _____ 1 TO 2 HOURS
(4). _____ 3 TO 6 HOURS
(5). _____ OVER 6 HOURS

THE FOLLOWING GROUP OF QUESTIONS INVOLVE SOME OF THE WAYS PEOPLE SPEND THEIR SPARE TIME. HOW DO YOU SPEND YOURS?

28. DO YOU WATCH TELEVISION? (1). ____ YES (2). ____ NO 1 2
ABOUT HOW MANY HOURS A DAY? _____

29. DO YOU LISTEN TO THE RADIO? (1). ____ YES (2). ____ NO 1 2

30. DO YOU ENJOY READING? (1). ____ YES (2). _____ NO 1 2

31. DO YOU READ A NEWSPAPER NEARLY EVERY DAY?
(1). _____ YES (2). _____ NO 1 2

32. DO YOU READ MAGAZINES? (1). ____ YES (2). ____ NO 1 2
IF YES, WHICH ARE YOUR FAVORITES? ____________________

______________________________________________

33. DO YOU READ BOOKS? (1). ____ YES (2). ____ NO 1 2

IF YOU DO READ BOOKS, CHECK THE KINDS YOU ENJOY:

FICTION:

ADVENTURE ____
HISTORICAL ____
ROMANCE ____
WESTERNS ____
MYSTERIES ____

SHORT STORIES ____
SCIENCE FICTION ____
ANIMAL STORIES ____
HUMOR ____

NONFICTION:

BIOGRAPHY ____
HISTORY ____
TRAVEL ____
CURRENT AFFAIRS ____
RELIGION ____
BUSINESS ____
HOMEMAKING ____

PHILOSOPHY ____
SCIENCE ____
NATURE ____
ART ____
PLAYS ____
POETRY ____
ABOUT MUSIC ____

34. WHAT BOOKS HAVE YOU READ OVER THE YEARS THAT YOU WOULD RECOMMEND AS BEING WORTHWHILE FOR OTHERS? LIST AS MANY AS YOU WISH.

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________

35. PLEASE CHECK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES THAT YOU HAVE DONE DURING THE LAST YEAR.

1. _____ YARD WORK OR GARDENING
2. _____ TAKE A VACATION TRIP
3. _____ DO DRIVING FOR PLEASURE
4. _____ GO TO THE MOVIES
5. _____ GO TO PLAYS OR CONCERTS
6. _____ PARTICIPATE IN ANY KIND OF SPORTS
7. _____ BELONG TO A SINGING GROUP
8. _____ PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
9. _____ ATTEND SPORTING EVENTS SUCH AS BASKETBALL, ETC.
10. _____ SPEND TIME AT THE LIBRARY
11. _____ PLAY CARDS OR OTHER GAMES SUCH AS MONOPOLY
12. _____ WORK JIGSAW PUZZLES
13. _____ PLAY BINGO
14. _____ ANY KIND OF SEWING, NEEDLEPOINT, OR EMBROIDERY
15. _____ CHURCH OR VOLUNTEER WORK
16. _____ LISTEN TO RECORDS
17. _____ OTHER ________________________________________

36. WAS THERE EVER A TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU USED THE LIBRARY QUITE A LOT?

(1). ____ NEVER
(2). ____ IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GRADES 1-6)
(3). ____ IN HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 7-12)
(4). ____ IN COLLEGE
(5). ____ AS AN ADULT

1 2 3
4 5

37. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT TO THE LIBRARY

(1). _____ DON'T KNOW 1 2 3
(2). _____ NEVER 4 5 6
(3). _____ OVER 6 MONTHS AGO
(4). _____ WITHIN THE LAST 6 MONTHS
(5). _____ WITHIN THE LAST MONTH
(6). _____ WITHIN THE LAST WEEK

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME STATEMENTS ABOUT LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS. THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS. PLEASE ANSWER EACH STATEMENT THE BEST YOU CAN BY MARKING AN "X" IN EITHER THE AGREE OR DISAGREE COLUMN.

| 38. | AGREE | DISAGREE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. THE LIBRARY IS A PLEASANT PLACE TO SPEND A FEW HOURS. | _____ | _______ | 1 0 |
| 2. LIBRARIANS CARE MORE ABOUT BOOKS THEN THEY CARE ABOUT PEOPLE. | _____ | _______ | 0 1 |
| 3. THE LIBRARY IS MOSTLY FOR STUDENTS. | _____ | _______ | 0 1 |
| 4. THE LIBRARY PROVIDES A VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. | _____ | _______ | 1 0 |
| 5. IF A PERSON CANNOT READ WELL, THERE IS NO USE GOING TO THE LIBRARY. | _____ | _______ | 0 1 |

| 38. (CONTINUED) | AGREE | DISAGREE | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. LIBRARIANS CAN SUGGEST GOOD BOOKS FOR A PERSON TO READ. | ____ | ______ | 1 | 0 |
| 7. LIBRARIANS WILL HELP A PERSON FIND WHAT HE IS LOOKING FOR IF HE ASKS FOR HELP. | ____ | ______ | 1 | 0 |
| 8. IT IS TOO HARD TO FIND WHAT YOU WANT IN THE LIBRARY. | ____ | ______ | 0 | 1 |
| 9. THE LIBRARY IS A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN ONLY WHISPER, NOT TALK ALOUD. | ____ | ______ | 0 | 1 |
| 10. THE LIBRARY HAS PROGRAMS TO HELP PEOPLE. | ____ | ______ | 1 | 0 |

MANY LIBRARIES PROVIDE SOME OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES--PLEASE CHECK THE ONES YOU HAVE DONE OR HAVE USED IN THE FIRST COLUMN AND THE ONES YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO OR LIKE TO USE IN THE SECOND COLUMN.

| 39. | HAVE USED OR HAVE DONE | WOULD LIKE TO USE OR DO |
|---|---|---|
| 1. CHECK OUT BOOKS | __________ | __________ |
| 2. READ MAGAZINES IN THE LIBRARY. | __________ | __________ |
| 3. READ NEWSPAPERS IN THE LIBRARY. | __________ | __________ |

39. (CONTINUED)

| | HAVE USED OR HAVE DONE | WOULD LIKE TO USE OR DO |
|---|---|---|
| 4. GO TO THE LIBRARY TO LOOK UP THE ANSWER TO A SPECIAL QUESTION. | | |
| 5. USE THE COPYING MACHINE. | | |
| 6. LISTEN TO RECORDS | | |
| 7. ATTEND A TALK OR MOVIE PROGRAM | | |
| 8. ATTEND AN ART EXHIBIT | | |
| 9. CALL ON THE TELEPHONE TO GET AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION. | | |
| 10. CHECK OUT A FILM FOR USE WITH SOME ACTIVITY. | | |
| 11. CHECK THE LOCATION ON A LIBRARY MAP OF SOME PLACE YOU'VE HEARD OF BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS. | | |
| 12. BORROW A PICTURE TO HANG ON YOUR WALL AT HOME. | | |
| 13. CHECK OUT "TALKING BOOKS" OR CASSETTES | | |

39. (CONCLUDED)

| | HAVE USED OR HAVE DONE | WOULD LIKE TO USE OR DO |
|---|---|---|
| 14. VISIT A BOOKMOBILE | | |
| 15. USE THE "SHUT-IN" SERVICE WHERE BOOKS ARE BROUGHT TO PEOPLE UNABLE TO GO TO THE LIBRARY | | |
| 16. CHECK OUT BOOKS WITH SPECIAL LARGE PRINT THAT IS EASIER TO READ. | | |
| 17. USE A MICROCARD READER. | | |

## NOTE

Anyone casually skimming the following chapters might be struck by introductory language which sounds similar at the beginning of each chapter.

The reason for this is (1) the similar methodology for analysis of data was used for each site, and (2) it was the consensus of the program team that each site analysis should stand by itself. This provides the advantage to those libraries and communities wanting to use these resources, and having similar characteristics, to break out separately these chapters without reference to those of less applicability. For the same reason Biliographic References which were used are included in each chapter dealing with each separate site.

# IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICE
# FOR
# OLDER ADULTS

Hazard

# IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICE FOR OLDER ADULTS

## HAZARD

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## IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICE

## FOR OLDER ADULTS

## HAZARD

### Introduction

Mindful of the practical objectives of the Kentucky Library Project as a whole--generally speaking, to enhance the lives of older persons through increasing and extending library services to them; and more particularly, to establish innovative models of library service--the present report will be presented in a somewhat different style from the usual academic research report. It is felt that the report on the characteristics of users and non-users of library services would not be particularly useful to the librarians and staff in furthering the objectives of the project if couched in terms of the null hypothesis and including a detailed description of the methodology and statistical analysis. Alternatively, it is our hope that the materials can be presented in such a way as not only to impart information about the respondents in the particular location but to induce greater sympathy and understanding of some of the problems older persons face when using the library. Additional explanatory or supportive data may be included from the community profile, the library profile and the fields of gerontology, medicine, architecture, etc. While many of the barriers to library use may be inherent in the process of aging and therefore in some ways irremediable, the greater awareness of these problems may generate a more relaxed approach to difficulties which arise and may provide a happier millieu for both librarian and older user.

Materials and activities generated by the research may prove productive at several levels:

(1) The administration of the questionnaire itself can provide a positive or constructive element in alerting persons to many of the services the library can provide. It is good public relations. In essence, it says, "Your library cares what you think.", and "We want to do a better job for you."

(2) The methodology (especially the use of group interviews) provides a less-often-used approach in the gathering of information.

(3) At the level of the frequency counts, such information may be put to direct use. For example, if frequency counts show many persons prefer to read history and historical fiction, more titles in these areas may be placed in collections in retirement homes, or sent out on bookmobiles which serve an older segment of the population. If sufficient numbers of persons are found to be interested in gardening as a hobby, or various handcrafts, etc., classes in such areas might be instituted and books provided in those areas by the library.

Certain of the measures may be useful to other agencies serving this segment of the population. For example, if a high percentage of the respondents live in one-person households, these persons might be interested in programs similar to Meals on Wheels, in which food is centrally prepared and delivered to a person's home or in a "Country Gathering" where people go to a central location and take meals together. Even some two-person families might be interested in this service, particularly if one of them is physically unable to shop for food and prepare meals, or if both suffer physical disabilities. Often better nutrition is achieved which might result in greater participation in other ways such as library use.

(4) Statistical analysis may help to determine those underlying attributes most necessary to increased library usage. A User Potential Index (hereinafter referred to as the UP Index) has been formulated, in an effort to determine what portion of the non-library-user group might most easily be encouraged to become library users, and which of the infrequent users might be encouraged to use the library more often.

## What do we hope to find out?

The questionnaire is expected to elicit baseline data concerning differences in various socio-economic characteristics such as marital status, living arrangements, educational attainments, and sources of and amounts of income. Areas of activity such as leisure interests, and social and community contacts will be analyzed. Finally, responses regarding attitude toward the library, use and anticipated use of library services and reading interests will be interpreted. A synthesis of the above information in terms of users and non-users of library services (in conjunction with community and library profiles already completed as a separate segment of the Kentucky Library Project) will be used to initiate innovative library services.

## What people were included in the study?

Participants in the study are included by age and status in the labor force. Persons over the age of 65 are included, irrespective of their status in the labor force. Persons younger than 65 are included if they say they are "retired". These might include wives, younger than 65, of retired men. Generally, if a woman is married to a retired man, she considers herself "retired" also. Some widows consider themselves "retired" even though they might never have worked for wages. Certain persons "retire" from positions which require that they fulfill a certain number of years of service. These persons might be "retired" from a career job (perhaps military) although they are presently employed either full or part time.

## How was the material gathered?

The initial problem of contacting older persons was solved by asking for the cooperation of various groups of persons in the service area of the library who were already members of clubs primarily composed of older persons. Group interviews were used in which a questionnaire was filled out by the respondents at various locations in Hazard during the early part of 1973.

## How was library use defined?

A "user" is a person who has been to the library within the last month.

An "infrequent user" is a person who has been to the library within the last six months, but not during the last month.

A "non-user" is a person who stated he has not been to the library during the last six months or who stated he didn't know when he last went to the library.

## How can the respondents be described?

Forty-six persons filled out questionnaires: thirty-five females and eleven males, which included two blacks. The sex ratio for the State of Kentucky for 1970 according to the U.S. Census figures was 96.3 males for every

100 females.* As can be readily seen, the group is underrepresented as to men and blacks, although the black population is extremely small in Perry County.

Respondents belonged to a senior citizen's club, a Woman's Club, an art group, a music appreciation group or were interested individuals who volunteered to participate in the survey.

Since the service area of the library embodies all of Perry County, it might be wise at this point to make some comparison of the age distribution of the respondents to the age distribution of persons 55 years of age and over in Perry County.

---

* U.S. Bureau of the Census, Characteristics of the Population, Vol. 1, Part 19, Kentucky, p. 19.

## TABLE I

## AGE DISTRIBUTION

## PERRY COUNTY, KENTUCKY

## 55 YEARS AND OVER

(in percent of population over 55)

| | |
|---|---|
| Total county population | 25,714 |
| Total population 55 and over | 4,928 |

| Age in Years | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Over 80 | 444 | 9.0 |
| 75 - 59 | 452 | 9.2 |
| 70 - 74 | 730 | 14.8 |
| 65 - 69 | 972 | 19.7 |
| 55 - 64 | 2,330 | 47.3 |
| | 4,928 | 99.0 |

Source: Table 35, "Age by Race and Sex, for Counties: 1970", U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, General Population Characteristics, Final Report, PC (1) B19, Kentucky, p. 142.

The following table shows the age distribution of the respondents:

## TABLE II

### AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS (in percentages)

| Age in Years | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Over 80 | 4 | 8.7 |
| 75 - 79 | 11 | 23.9 |
| 70 - 74 | 10 | 21.7 |
| 65 - 69 | 9 | 19.6 |
| 55 - 64 | 12 | 26.1 |
| | 46 | 100.0 |

While it cannot be claimed that the persons in each of the age categories is necessarily representative of the age group in the county as a whole (especially since the respondents are generally from the non-rural areas, and do not include men in the same proportion as the sex ratio for Kentucky would indicate), nonetheless, information from those available may provide valuable insights into improving library services to all older age groups. The over-80 age group and the 65-69 age group show percentages in the respondent group almost identical with that of the over 55 county population. Only about half as many in the 55-64 age group appear among the respondents as is shown by the county figure. In the age groups, 70-74 and 75-79, a greater percentage is included among the respondent group than in the county population under discussion.

## Social and Economic Characteristics

How do the social and economic characteristics of the Hazard respondents compare with those of the United States as a whole? The attributes we will consider are marital status, living arrangements, educational attainments, sources and amount of income, poverty level and satisfaction with income.

Marital Status. In the United States as a whole, great differences are found in marital status between men and women in the over 55 age groups. For the year 1960, 79.0% of the men between 55 and 64 years were married and living with their wives; while only 62.9% of the women were married and living with their husbands. Only 6.2% of the men in this age group as compared with 24.5% of the women were widowed. In the over 65 age group, 69.8% of the men as compared to 35.3% of the women were living with their spouses. In 1971, the figures are more disparate--84.2% of the men between the ages of 55 and 64 and only 64.9% of the women in that age group are married and living with their spouses. In the over 65 age group, 70.1% of the men, but only 34.5% of the women live with their spouses. Seventeen and one-tenth percent of the men, but 54.2% of the women over 65 are widowed.*

---

* Distribution of the Population 55 Years Old and Over by Marital Status, by Age and Sex: 1960, 1971, and 1985, in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 26.

Of the eleven men included in the study, four or 36.4% are married and four (36.4%) are widowed. Of the women, only 20% are married, 2.9% are divorced and 65.7% are widowed. At whatever age, men are more likely to be married than women, and women are a good deal more likely to be widowed.

As a consequence of marital status, three-quarters of the Hazard respondents live in one or two-person families. According to the following table, seventy-two and seven-tenths of the men and seventy-five and eight-tenths of the women live in one or two-person households. Although the women are much more likely to live alone, almost twice as many men live alone in the Hazard group than live alone in the United States as a whole. A greater percentage of women also live alone in the Hazard group than in the U.S. as a whole.

### TABLE III

### LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF HAZARD RESPONDENTS

(in percent)

(Number=44)

| Living Arrangements | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| Living alone | 27.3 | 48.5 |
| Spouse present | 45.4 | 27.3 |
| Living with someone else | 27.3 | 24.2 |
| | 100.0 | 100.0 |

the median years of school completed for those 65 and over will rise from the present 8.7 years to 11.9 years.* This increase in education alone should provide an additional number of possible library users. According to figures from the 1970 Census for the entire United States, 4% of those 65 and over have had no school at all; 53% have completed between 1 year and 8 years; 27% have completed 4 years or more of high school, but only 6% have completed 4 years or more of college.**

The following table indicates the number of years of school completed by the Hazard respondents:

TABLE V

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

HAZARD RESPONDENTS

(in percent)

(Number=46)

| | |
|---|---|
| Less than 8 grades | 39.1 |
| 1 - 4 years of high school | 32.6 |
| 1 - 4 years of college | 19.6 |
| 1 - 4 years of graduate school | 8.7 |

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* Op. cit., Table 19., Educational Attainment of the Population 65 Years Old and Over and 25 to 64 Years of Age, for Various Years: 1957 to 1990, p. 25.

** We, the American Elderly, Bureau of the Census, Public Information Office, (Washington, D. C., USGPO, 1973), p. 11

Comparison with the national figures indicates that while 57% had completed 8 years or less, only 39.1% of the Hazard respondents had so little education; and that 28.3% had completed high school and had some college or graduate work. Consequently, the Hazard respondents appear to be a rather select group in terms of educational accomplishment.

In a cross-tabulation of library use and years of school completed, it can be seen that (as expected) library use increases with increased education, and increases rather markedly for those who have college or graduate level education. Whereas 75.0% of the persons with graduate education are library users; 81.8% of those with 8th grade education or less are non-users.

### TABLE VI

### EDUCATION AND LIBRARY USE

(in percent)

| | Non-User | Infrequent User | User | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 - 8 years | 81.8 | 0 | 18.2 | 100% |
| 9 - 12 years | 36.4 | 27.3 | 36.4 | 100% |
| 1 - 4 years college | 0 | 37.5 | 62.5 | 100% |
| 1 - 4 years graduate school | 25.0 | 0 | 75.0 | 100% |

For comparative purposes, the United States figures for 65 and over are as follows:

## TABLE IV

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE POPULATION
## 65 YEARS AND OLDER BY SEX
## MARCH 1971

| Living Arrangements | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| Living alone | 13.9 | 34.8 |
| Spouse present | 70.1 | 34.5 |
| Living with someone else | 15.9 | 30.7 |

Source: Table 21. Living Arrangements of the Population 55 Years Old and Over by Age and Sex: March, 1971, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Series P-23, No. 43, Current Population Reports, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973, p. 26.

So far as library use is concerned, 10% of the married persons (N=10) among the respondents are library users, and an additional 30% are infrequent users. By comparison, 45.0% of the widows (N=20) are library users and 15% are infrequent users.

*Education*. One of the critical attributes prerequisite to high library usage is years of education completed. "...education and more education is needed to make a reader...education is overwhelmingly the factor most closely associated with reading."* The statement made in "Baltimore Reaches Out" comes as no surprise as numerous studies have found the statement to be true. This study is no exception. Accordingly, the older age groups are generally at some disadvantage educationally as their median years of education completed is somewhat lower than those of the younger age segments. In the U.S. as a whole, the median years of school completed, for those 65 years and over for the years 1969-70 was 8.7 and only 28.2% were high school graduates. By contrast, 60.4% of persons 25-64 years of age are high school graduates.**

For males 56 and over, the median years of school completed was 8.6 and for females 8.8. As a practical matter, this could mean that approximately half of the 65 and over population would be unlikely candidates for library service. It is expected, however, that as the younger age groups with their proportionately greater education move into the retirement age brackets that by 1990 the median years of school completed for those 65 and over will rise from the present 8.7 years to 11.9 years.*** This increase in education alone should provide an additional number of possible library users.

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[*] Lowell A. Martin, *Baltimore Reaches Out*, *Library Services to the Disadvantaged*, (Baltimore, Md., Enoch Pratt Free Library, June, 1967), p. 25.

[**] U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States," (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), Table 19, Educational Attainment of the Population 65 Years Old and Over and 25 to 64 Years of Age, for Various Years: 1957 to 1990, p. 25.

[***] *Ibid*.

According to figures from the 1970 Census for the entire United States, 4% of those 54 and over have had no school at all; 53% have completed between 1 year and 8 years; 27% have completed 4 years or more of high school, but only 6% have completed 4 years or more of college.*

Comparison with the national figures indicates that while 57% had completed 8 years or less, only 39.1% of the Hazard respondents had so little education; and that 28.3% had completed high school and had some college or graduate work. Consequently, the Hazard respondents appear to be a rather select group in terms of educational accomplishment.

In a cross-tabulation of library use and years of school completed, it can be seen that (as expected) library use increases with increased education, and increases rather markedly for those who have college or graduate level education. Whereas 75.0% of the persons with graduate education are library users, 81.8% of those with 8th grade education or less are non-users.

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*We, the American Elderly, Bureau of the Census, Public Information Office, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 11.

## TABLE VI

## EDUCATION AND LIBRARY USE
(in percent)

| | NON-USER | INFREQUENT USER | USER | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-8 Years | 81.8 | 0 | 18.2 | 100% |
| 9-12 Years | 36.4 | 27.3 | 36.4 | 100% |
| 1-4 Years College | 0 | 37.5 | 62.5 | 100% |
| 1-4 Years Graduate School | 25.0 | 0 | 75.0 | 100% |

The following table indicates the number of years of school completed by the Hazard respondents.

## TABLE V

### YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED
### HAZARD RESPONDENTS
(in percent)

(Number=46)

| | |
|---|---|
| Less than 8 grades | 39.1 |
| 1-4 years of high school | 32.6 |
| 1-4 years of college | 19.6 |
| 1-4 years of graduate school | 8.7 |

## Sources of Income

Pre-retirement Employment. As a response to a somewhat higher educational level than for this age group in Kentucky as a whole, and the number of years in the labor force, one would expect that pre-retirement employment of the Hazard respondents would likely be predominantly in the white collar category. In fact, 54.3% of the respondent group as compared with 48% in Kentucky as a whole are white collar workers.

The following table delineates the pre-retirement employment of the Hazard respondents:

### TABLE VII

### PRE-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT* OF HAZARD RESPONDENTS

(in percent)
(Number=46)

| | |
|---|---|
| Service workers | 4.3% |
| Farm workers | -- |
| Blue collar workers | 8.7% |
| White collar workers | 54.3% |
| Missing data | 32.6% |
| | 100.0% |

---

* Briefly stated, service workers (except private household workers such as cooks, housekeepers, maids and servants) include such categories as barbers, firemen, policemen, practical nurses, elevator operators and hairdressers. Farm workers include farm laborers and farm foremen. Blue collar workers include craftsmen, and kindred workers, such as carpenters, electricians, mechinists, painters, etc., transport equipment operators, and laborers, except farm. White collar workers include professional, technical and kindred workers including such categories as engineers, social scientists, teachers, draftsmen; managers and administrators, except farm; sales workers, clerical and kindred workers. For a detailed listing of categories included in the four classes, refer to List A, Occupational Classification for Total and White Males..., U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, Subject Reports, Final Report PC-2, 8B, Earnings by Occupation and Education, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 105, IX and X.

Three persons stated that they had never worked for wages. The median number of years worked on the pre-retirement job was a little over 27 years.

The labor force profile from the 1970 Census for the State of Kentucky for workers in 1965, 65 years of age and over, excluding those who did not report their occupations, is as follows:

### TABLE VIII

### MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP IN 1965
### OF WORKERS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE
### WHO REPORTED THEIR OCCUPATIONS
### KENTUCKY, 1970

| | |
|---|---|
| White collar | 48% |
| Blue collar | 26% |
| Farm workers | 9% |
| Service workers | 17% |

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, Subject Reports, Final Reports, PC (2) - 7E, Occupation and Residence in 1965, Table 2, Major Occupation Groups in 1970 of those 20 years old and over by Major Occupation in 1965, Age, Race and Spanish Origin in 1970, (Washington, D. C., USGPO, 1973), p. 6 and 16.

By using the 65 years and over age segment who were working in 1965, the distribution should take into account the number of years in the labor force to some extent. From a comparison of the two profiles, more than half of the Hazard respondents are white collar workers. A possible explanation is that white collar workers are more apt to be "joiners" of groups and thus they are much more likely to be included in a survey sample. A large percentage (32.6) failed to answer the question of pre-retirement employment which affects the percentage to a great degree.

So far as library use is concerned, three persons in the categories of blue collar and service workers answered the question. None of the three is a library user. In contrast, 20 white collar workers answered the library use question and 35% of those are library users and 20.0% are infrequent users. However, half of the group failed to answer the library question which elevates the percentages for the remaining persons in the group.

Present Sources of Income. From what sources does the income of the Hazard respondents arise? As one would expect, the most frequently mentioned source of income is Social Security, which is received by 63.0% of the respondents. State or federal government pensions were received by 23.9% of the respondents. Seventeen and four-tenths percent stated they received interest from investments or rents, but only 6.5% said they made withdrawals from savings, selling real estate or cashing bonds. Only 8.7% receive income from a job.

For more detailed information on source of income, see Table IX, "Sources of Income of Respondents".

## TABLE IX

## SOURCES OF INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

(Income for year 1972)

| | |
|---|---|
| Social Security Benefits | 63.0% |
| State or Federal Government Pension | 23.9% |
| Interest from Investments and Rent | 17.4% |
| Railroad Pension | 10.9% |
| A Job | 8.7% |
| Withdrawals from Savings, Selling Real Estate or Cashing Bonds | 6.5% |
| Relatives | 4.3% |
| Private or Company Pension | 4.3% |
| Old Age Assistance | 4.3% |
| Any other Government Assistance at all | None |
| Government Payment because of Some Injury | None |

Note: Does not add to 100.0% since more than one source could be checked.

Labor Force Participation. In Perry County, 14.1% of the men 65 and over but only 8.3% of the females 65 and over are still in the labor force.*

Among the Hazard respondents, approximately one person in twelve still received income from some kind of job.

On the national scene, for men 65 and over, labor participation has shown a steady decrease from 45.8 per hundred in 1950 to 25.5 in 1971. The rate for those past 70 was 17.0. None of the men in the Hazard group was still working for wages, although 11.2% of the women were. In all probability, men still working would not be included in the survey. For females, the national rate of participation has remained relatively stable, being 9.7 per hundred in 1950 for those 65 and over and decreasing only slightly to 9.5 for 1971.** It is anticipated that national labor participation rates for men may continue to decline as the result of greater coverage by private pensions and Social Security.

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* U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, Characteristics of the Population, Vol. 1, Part 19, Kentucky, Table 21, Employment Characteristics for Countries: 1970 (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), pp. 414-423.

** Table 22. Labor Force Participation Rates for the Population 55 Years and Over, By Age, Sex, and Race for Various Years: 1950-1980, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 28.

## Amount of Income, Poverty Level and Satisfaction with Income

Income. In spite of a certain resistence by some people to answering the question on income (even though the categories were relatively broad since detailed information was not necessary for the purposes of this study), only 6 people failed to answer, or approximately 1 out of 8. The following table shows the percentage distribution of income of the respondents:

TABLE X

INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

(in percentage of total respondents)

| Amount Per Month | Percent |
|---|---|
| Less than $200 | 23.9 |
| Over $200 but less than $500 | 50.0 |
| Over $500 but less than $750 | 10.9 |
| Over $750 but less than $1,000 | 2.2 |
| Over $1,000 | -- |
| Failed to answer | 13.0 |

When marital status is taken into account, the following figures result:

## TABLE XI

## MARITAL STATUS AND INCOME OF RESPONDENTS PER MONTH

(N = 46)

| Marital Status | Income Per Month | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Less than $200 | Over $200 but less than $500 | Over $500 but less than $750 | Over $750 but less than $1,000 | Over $1,000 |
| Married (N=11) | -- | 7 | 3 | 1 | -- |
| Widowed (N=23) | 11 | 11 | 1 | -- | -- |
| Never Married (N=1) | -- | 1 | -- | -- | -- |
| Divorced (N=3) | -- | 2 | 1 | -- | -- |

8 persons failed to answer.

NOTE: Percentages were not computed due to small number of cases in each category.

Poverty Level. In order to assess the adequacy of the above figures in terms of level of living, a comparison of those figures with the "Retired Couple Budget" put out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, might be useful. The retired couple budget is based not on poverty level (established each year from the Current Population Survey of annual income for farm and non-farm families of varying sizes by a rather complicated formula), but on a "modest but adequate" standard of living. In 1969, the poverty level for a person aged 65 or over living alone or with non-relatives averaged $1,749 and for a couple with head 65 or over, it averaged $2,194.* The "modest but adequate" retired couple's budget includes a detailed list of items such as food, housing, transportation, clothing and personal care, medical care, personal income taxes and "other" items. The budget also assumes some existing inventory of clothing, furniture and appliances.

The budgetary levels established, as of the spring of 1970, are as follows:

| Budget Level** | Single Person 65+ | Couple 65+ |
|---|---|---|
| Lower | $1,555 | $2,832 |
| Intermediate | 2,297 | 4,185 |
| Higher | 3,177 | 5,786 |

A recent revision of budget levels for autumn, 1972, shows the following figures for the urban retired couple:

| Budget Level | Total |
|---|---|
| Lower | $3,442 |
| Intermediate | 4,967 |
| Higher | 7,689 |

---

* Administration of Aging, Facts and Figures on Older Americans, No. 1, "Measuring Adequacy of Income", (Washington, D.C., DHEW, 1972), p. 3.

** Ibid., p. 6.

The increases are calculated by using changes in the consumer price index and show increases over the 1971 budget of 3.7% for the lower level, 4.0% for the intermediate and 3.3% for the higher level.*

By comparing the income of the total group of respondents with the 1970 budgetary levels, it can be seen that while the respondents are not the most impoverished of persons, that 23.9% have less than $2,400 per year income. This would fall roughly within the lower budget levels for couples. Fifty percent (50%) of the respondents have less than $6,000 per year income, which would fall generally within the higher budgetary levels for couples. Percentages for marital status and income were not computed due to the small numbers of cases in each category.

One should be aware also that the budgetary figures above do not take into account either the length of time a person has been retired or the amount of assets available at retirement. How much are such retirement assets likely to be? A recently begun (1969) ten-year longitudinal study by the Social Security Administration gathered information on pre-retirement assets from 11,153 men aged 58-63, regardless of marital status, and women of the same ages who were not, when selected, living with a spouse, the sample being drawn from all 50 states. Married women were not included since "for most married women of this generation 'retirement' has little meaning apart from their husband's stopping work".** Half of all the reporting non-married units had a total net worth (assets less debt) of less than $4,500. When home equity was excluded, the amount dropped below $900. With married men, half had more than $16,000 in net worth and more than $4,600 other than in home equity.***

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* From Statistical Memo #26, dated October 5, 1973, to AOA Professional Staff from Blanch S. Williams.

** Lola M. Irelan, Retirement History Study, Report No. 1, (Washington, D.C., Social Security Administration, 1973), p. 6.

*** Sally R. Sherman, "Assets on the Threshold of Retirement", Social Security Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 8, (August, 1973), p. 14.

Sixty-five is generally conceded as the usual retirement age although women may retire at age 62. How long, in general, should assets and post-retirement income be expected to last? In Kentucky (1968) the average remaining years of life was 12.9 for males and 16.4 years for females. If a woman retires at 62 instead of 65, she might spend 19.4 years "retired".* A woman's chances of surviving to older age are greater than a man's. Once having reached age 65 a man has only 200 chances in 1,000 to reach age 85 while a woman has 352--about one and one-half as much.** Disproportionate budgetary stress may result for women since their income either as wage earners or as pensioners through survivorship is usually smaller.

Thus, considering the expenditure only of "modest but adequate" budgets plus the relatively long life expectancy of persons after retirement, it is obvious that such assets could not long sustain either an individual or a couple in the absence of other sources of income.

Satisfaction with Income. Interestingly enough, 60.9% of the respondents stated that they were satisfied with their income. Since 15.2% failed to answer the question, and only 10.9% said they didn't know whether they were satisfied or not, only 13.0% voiced dissatisfaction with their income.

In every age group, more persons are satisfied with their income than are dissatisfied.

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* "Regional Variations in Longevity at Ages 65 and Older", Metropolitan Life Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 54, (September, 1973), p. 11.

** Ibid.

## Social Contacts and Activities

One of the goals set forth by the 1971 White House Conference on Aging was to "achieve and maintain positive and well integrated social relations within the family and community".* It is assumed that if persons maintain such social relations their continued interest in various areas would be a likely stimulus to the use of the library. Conversely, high alienation would likely militate against library use. In an effort to measure some areas of "life space" or "...that network of social interactions unique to a particular individual",** questions were asked regarding the amount of leisure time available, voting behavior, the number of meetings attended, leisure activities-and interests, and various facets of alienation.

Spare Time. Even after retirement some people have no "spare time". Some care for invalided mates, or other relatives for whom they are responsible. Some are involved in a number of activities and have no spare time (in their view) for additional activities. Some oldsters have more time than they know what to do with. How much spare time do the Hazard respondents feel that they have? Six and five-tenths (6.5%) percent said they had no spare time at all. Interestingly enough, 58.7% said they had between 1 and 6 hours a day spare time and 26.1% said they had over 6 hours a day spare time. Obviously, persons in this group do have time to devote to additional activities if they find the activities of sufficient interest.

Voting Behavior. One means of continuing participation in community life is that of voting. One of the explanations for continued interest in political matters after retirement is that since certain role losses are societally rather than individually imposed, remaining roles may become more important. A person is not, after all, automatically disenfranchised at a particular older age.

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* Retirement Roles and Activities, White House Conference on Aging, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, n.d.), p. 11.

** Robert C. Atchley, The Social Forces in Later Life, (Belmont, California, Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1972), p. 340.

Concern has been voiced by librarians that the elderly population might constitute a voting bloc. Such a voting bloc could exist as a part of a sub-culture of aging, a concept discussed by sociologist Arnold Rose* in which he sets forth criteria tending to show that the elderly in the population could be considered a sub-culture. Requisites for such a sub-culture are that (1) members have a positive affinity for each other on some basis and (2) the members are excluded from interaction with other groups to some significant extent. Evidence of the awareness of this concept may be found in Eleanor Phinney's article on "Library and the Aging"** in which she mentions the "danger in old people's organizing as an interest bloc, and of the impediment to progressive action embodied in a large voting group of ultra-conservative tendencies,...."

Atchley*** feels that such a sub-culture as defined by Rose probably does not exist. First, older people belong to numerous interest groups, not necessarily based on age. Secondly, older persons generally remain in the community and house they lived in before retirement. For example, for the year 1970-71, only 5.4% of the population 65 to 74 moved to a different house in the same county and only 2.9% moved to a different county. For those 75 and over only 6.8% moved to a different county.**** Consequently, the aged are dispersed throughout the population rather than being physically isolated in the sense that they are non-age-segregated as they might be in retirement villages, or apartment complexes exclusively for the retired. Third, because of interaction with their children, they do have meaningful contacts across generational lines. In other words, age per se does not act as a consolidating factor. Thus, if such a sub-culture does not exist, it would be more difficult for a strong voting bloc to materialize.

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* Arnold M. Rose and Warren A. Peterson, *Older People and Their Social World: The Subculture of the Aging*, (Philadelphia, Pa., F.A. Davis Co., 1965), p. 14.

** *Library Journal*, 78 (1953), pp. 1875-79.

*** *Op. cit.*, Atchley.

**** U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 13.

That persons in older age groups do, in fact, vote in rather remarkable numbers, is borne out by national and regional figures as well as by the voting behavior of the respondents in the age groups contacted in Hazard. The following table shows the percent voting, 55 years of age and older for all races in the United States and in the Southern Region of which Kentucky is a part.

## TABLE XII

## REPORTED VOTER PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS 55 AND OVER, ALL RACES BY SEX AND AGE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOUTHERN REGION, NOVEMBER, 1972

(Civilian non-institutional population)

| | Percent Voting | |
|---|---|---|
| | United States | Southern Region |
| Both sexes, all ages | 63.0 | 55.4 |
| 55 to 64 years | 70.7 | 62.2 |
| 65 to 74 years | 68.1 | 60.1 |
| 75 years and over | 55.6 | 46.4 |
| Male | | |
| 55 to 64 years | 72.4 | 65.8 |
| 65 to 74 years | 73.2 | 65.7 |
| 75 years and over | 75.0 | 59.1 |
| Female | | |
| 55 to 64 years | 69.2 | 59.1 |
| 65 to 74 years | 64.3 | 55.9 |
| 75 years and over | 49.1 | 38.3 |

Source: Table 1. Reported Voter Participation and Registration of Persons of Voting Age, by Race, Spanish Origin, Sex and Age, for the United States and Regions, November, 1972, in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 253, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November, 1972", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), pp. 7-27.

As shown by Table XII, voting participation in the Southern Region drops off fairly sharply at age 75 and over, especially among females. Figures show that for both sexes and for females in both the United States and the Southern Region, the most active voting period occurs between 45 and 54 years of age. For males in the United States, interestingly enough, ages 75 and over showed that 75.0% voted, which was the highest percent of participation. In the Southern Region, males in the 55-64 age category voted slightly more frequently than those in the 45-54 age category. (65.8% as compared to 65.2%.)

So far as the Hazard respondents are concerned, 82.6% of the total of 46 stated that they voted in the last national election (November, 1972). Since two of the respondents failed to answer the voting question, the following voting by age cross-tabulation shows even higher percentages.

TABLE XIII

PERCENTAGE OF HAZARD RESPONDENTS VOTING IN 1972 NATIONAL ELECTION, BY AGE

(Number = 44)

| Age | Percent Voting |
|---|---|
| 55 to 64 years | 63.6 |
| 65 to 69 years | 100.0 |
| 70 to 74 years | 90.0 |
| 75 to 79 years | 90.9 |
| Over 80 years | 100.0 |

The above table appears to show a rather remarkable participation especially in the 65-69 year (N=8) and the over-80 year (N=4) categories in which all respondents stated they voted. While some may have stated that they voted because they thought they should have, it is possible that the more politically active and interested tend to participate in more social activities and would be more likely to be included in such a survey as this.

While Hazard has no public transportation system, most Hazard respondents have means to get to the polls to vote--34.8% say they own their own cars; 30.4% say when they want to go some place they drive themselves there and an additional 43.5% say they have someone else drive them where they want to go.

It is interesting to note that while causality is not necessarily implied, 73.9% have transportation available and 82.6% of the total said they voted.

While reasons for not voting were not asked of the Hazard respondents, it is obvious that active dislike of politics, lack of interest in politics or the inability to get to the polls could be considered strong reasons for not voting. The following table shows reasons for not voting in the United States for ages 55 and over:

TABLE XIV

REPORTED REASON NOT VOTING OF PERSONS WHO REPORTED THAT THEY WERE REGISTERED BUT DID NOT VOTE, BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE FOR THE UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 1972

(Civilian non-institutional population)

| Age | Reasons for not Voting | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| All Races | Not Interested | Dislike Politics | Unable to go to Polls |
| Both Sexes | | | |
| 55 - 64 years | 17.9 | 13.1 | 35.2 |
| 65 years and over | 8.5 | 7.8 | 56.3 |
| Male | | | |
| 55 - 64 years | 14.7 | 13.4 | 33.5 |
| 65 years and over | 10.7 | 10.3 | 51.6 |
| Female | | | |
| 55 - 64 years | 14.6 | 10.8 | 40.2 |
| 65 years and over | 7.2 | 6.2 | 59.3 |

Source: Table 18, Reported Reason Not Voting of Persons Who Reported That They Were Registered But Did Not Vote, By Age, Sex, and Race for the United States, November, 1972. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 253, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November, 1972", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 140.

The most acute reason for not voting given for the 65 and over age group as shown in Table XIV is the inability to go to the polls. While in some cases this might be a rationalization for not voting, it nonetheless appears to be a real problem for people who might not, from an economic point of view, be able to afford transportation, or who, because of infirmity, are no longer able to drive.

As stated above, the Hazard respondents included in this survey seem fairly well supplied with means of getting to the polls, even though car ownership is rather low. Their high participation in voting activity is truly remarkable in view of the dependence on others to take them where they want to go.

Long and Lucioli suggest that "it is vital that we should not be handicapped in our progress in these fields (social and economic adjustment) by having to face an old age pressure group inherently opposed to innovation and concerned only with its own security and comfort."* The fear that the older age segment is concerned "only with its own security and comfort", is not borne out by a recent survey conducted by the American Association of Retired Persons.** Information on the felt needs of older persons was received from almost 70,000 members in late 1972. The major areas of concern were (1) inflation, (2) the high crime rate, (3) high taxes, (4) drug use and (5) decline in religious and moral values. None of these are exclusively concerns of the aged and are concerns reflected in national surveys which include all age groups. "Inadequate attention to the problems of the retired" was ranked eighth.

It would seem, therefore, fairly unlikely either that the elderly would form a voting bloc which could have influence disproportionate to the size of the aging segment or that if such strength existed that it would be used to promote programs or legislation "concerned only with its own security and comfort."

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* Fern Long and Clara Lucioli, "The Live Long and Like It Club: A Project in Adult Education for Older People". Wilson Library Bulletin, 23, (December, 1948).

** James A. Peterson, "Report on You", Modern Maturity, Vol. 16, No. 4, (August-September, 1973), pp. 64-65.

Meetings. For most of the respondents, meetings of various kinds provide considerable community contact. Eighty-nine and one-tenth percent had attended one or more meetings during the pervious month. Thirty-two and six-tenths percent attended between four and six meetings, and 17.4% of the respondents attended between seven and ten meetings the previous month. Unless relevance of materials and services of the library can be established in connection with the subject matter of some of the meetings, competition for the time of persons involved in several meetings may not be successful. It seems easier to continue an activity already begun than to start a new one.

Leisure Activities. Greater numbers of activities should provide a wider base of interest in the materials and services a library has to offer. Respondents were asked to check the activities they had participated in during the last year not only to determine the extent of participation, but to indicate areas of interest upon which to build programs.

The most frequently mentioned leisure time activity was church or volunteer work; yard work or gardening was rated second and taking a vacation trip was third. Driving for pleasure and going to plays or concerts were listed as fifth and sixth.

Use of radio and TV. Two passive activities which provide formidable competition for library use are television viewing and listening to the radio. It is much easier to snap on the TV or radio than to read a book or bestir oneself to the library. Ninety-one and three-tenths percent of the respondents watch TV and 87.0% say they listen to the radio. A little over half (52.2%) of those who watch TV say they spend between one and five hours a day watching, and four persons (8.7%) say they spend in excess of six hours a day.

What are the main reasons people give for watching? "A National Inventory of Television Viewing Behavior" found that 32% watched for entertainment, 26% for relaxation and 18% admitted they watched only to "kill time".*

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* Leonard A. LaScioto, Television in Day-to-Day Life: Patterns of Use, Vol. IV (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, n.d.), p. 60.

Another study* found that "few turn on their sets for educational purposes" and that "only 10% mentioned information-seeking as a reason for watching TV". A study on news viewing found that the majority of the population (52% of the men and 54% of the women) reported they had not seen a national news program during the two-week period (Oct.-Nov., 1969) of the study.** However, "both male and female regular news viewers are drawn disproportionately from older people in our society, regardless of their educational level or amount of overall viewing time.***

Alienation. If activities would seem to encourage library use, it also seems plausible that the opposite or societal alienation would be likely to discourage library use. In an effort to determine whether or not this is true of the respondents in Hazard, a five-item alienation scale was included in the questionnaire. Five of the six items included in Middleton's Alienation

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* John P. Robinson, "Toward Defining the Function of Television", Ibid., p. 580.

** Harold Israel and John P. Robinson, "Demographic Characteristics of Viewers of Television Violence and News Programs", Television in Day-to-Day Life: Patterns of Use, Vol. IV, (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, n.d.), p. 102.

*** Ibid., p. 107.

Scale* were used. The statement "I don't really enjoy most of the work that I do, but I feel that I must do it in order to have other things that I need or want", was excluded since this study deals with retired persons and was not applicable. Remaining items included statements intended to measure powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, cultural estrangement and social estrangement.**

The questions were presented in an agree-disagree format. "Positive" answers were those in which the respondents disagreed with the statements. The form of the statements posed particular problems for those of lower educational attainment since in order to make a "positive" response, it was necessary to "disagree" with a negative statement. Consequently, there was a relatively high rate of non-response to these items.

When asked to respond to the statement "In order to get ahead in the world, you are almost forced to do some things which are not right", which is intended to measure normlessness, 78.3% disagreed.

To the statement on cultural estrangement, i.e., "I am not much interested in the TV programs, movies or magazines that most people seem to like", only 47.8% disagreed. Since 91.3% of the respondents said they watch TV and a little over half say they watch between one and five hours a day, and 71.7% say they read magazines, 47.8% who disagree seems a rather low percentage of persons. The objection could possibly have been aimed at movies rather than TV and magazines due to the wording of the question.

Forty-three and five-tenths percent disagreed with the statement "There is not much that I can do about most of the important problems that we face today". Voting could be considered a response to powerlessness--unless the voters feel that the vote really has no effect. Since such a high percentage of Hazard respondents vote, 47.8% who feel "powerless" (or agree with the statement) seems a rather high figure.

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* R. Middleton, "Alienation, Race and Education", American Sociological Review, 28 (1963), pp. 973-77, as described in Measures of Social Psychological Attitudes, by John P. Robinson and Phillip R. Shaver, (Ann Arbor, Michigan, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, August, 1969).

** For wording of these items, see Question 19, page 4, REV/4 of the Questionnaire, Appendix A.

To the statement "Things have become so complicated in the world today that I really don't understand what is going on", 54.3% agreed that the world is too complicated, while 37.0% disagreed. Eight and seven-tenths percent failed to answer.

While the four above statements were presented in such a way that understanding might be difficult, the fifth item intended to measure social estrangement should have been easily understood even by those of low education. "I often feel lonely" is a simple, straightforward statement. Some resistance to answering this particular question was in evidence, as shown by the non-answering percentage of 19.6%. However, 34.8% agreed with the statement, while 45.7% disagreed that they often felt lonely. When a group of 2,543 adults were asked to state their fears, less than one in five said they feared death, but 16% of all women and 11% of the men said they feared loneliness.* There is no way of determining whether those who failed to answer felt lonely often, but did not want to admit it. A number of husband-wife combinations were in attendance and it is possible if one admitted to being lonely, that it might reflect unfavorably on the other partner. Since husband and wife usually sat together and thus could see how the other answered, some answers might have been adjusted accordingly.

Total scores on all five items ranged from 0 for a person who did not disagree with any of the five statements to 5 for a person who disagreed with each of the five statements. Persons with scores of 0, 1 and 2 were considered to be more alienated than those who had scores of 3, 4 and 5. Twenty-eight persons (60.9%) had scores of 0, 1 or 2 and were considered alienated. Some of the low scores may be accounted for by virtue of non-answering since the items were scored in the positive direction. Eighteen persons (39.1%) had scores of 3, 4 or 5 and were considered non-alienated.

Of the persons who were considered alienated, half were non-library users and half were users or infrequent users. Of those with low alienation, approximately two-thirds were users and infrequent users and one-third were non-users.

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* George H. Gallup, The Gallup Poll, Public Opinion, 1935-71, Vol. 3, 1959-71, (New York: Random House, 1972).

## Life Satisfaction

Four areas of satisfaction were explored--happiness, satisfaction with housing, satisfaction with income and attitude toward retirement.

*Happiness*. When asked the question, "In general, how happy would you say you are?", 93.5% of the respondents said they were either very happy or fairly happy. Compared to a survey made in January, 1971, by the Gallup Poll, in which 38% of the adults fifty years old and older, said they were very happy and 50% said they were fairly happy*, the respondents were somewhat happier than the broader Gallup sample.

*Housing Satisfaction*. When asked whether they were satisfied with their housing arrangements, 82.6% of the Hazard respondents indicated satisfaction compared with 74% of a national adult sample of 1,505 made in September, 1973, by the Roper Public Opinion Research Center.** Only 10.9% of the Hazard respondents said they were dissatisfied compared to 23% of the national sample. In a report on an American Association of Retired Persons membership of 70,000 older persons, 89% of the respondents were satisfied with their housing arrangements. Nonetheless, in terms of numbers, the survey estimates that a quarter of a million older Americans are unhappy over their housing.***

*Income Satisfaction*. As previously discussed under Socio-economic characteristics, 60.9% of the respondents stated that they were satisfied with their income, while only 13.0% voiced dissatisfaction.

*Attitude to Retirement*. Four of the Hazard respondents (8.7% stated that retirement was worse than expected. Thirty-four and eight-tenths percent said retirement was about the same as they expected and 32.6% said retirement was better than expected. It might be well to keep in mind, however, that these people are fairly healthy (56.5% say they have good or excellent health) and relatively unrestricted as to activity (65.2% say they either are not limited in any or not limited in most of their activities). When the Roper Public Opinion Research

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* Gallup Poll, January 14, 1971, p. 2280.

** *Current Opinion*, Vol. 2, Issue 1, (Jan., 1974), p. 9.

*** James A Peterson, "Report on You", *Modern Maturity*, Aug.-Sept., 1973, pp. 64-5.

Center asked a national sample of adults what they considered to be the best stage of life, 24% named young adulthood, 36% named middle age and 20% named retirement.*

## Library Use

Barriers to Library Use by Older Persons. While open stacks may be a boon to students who like to browse, this increasing accessibility to books may prove a distinct disadvantage to older persons. Physical handicaps, building barriers and felt personal inadequacies may combine to render library use just too demanding in terms of available energy for the rewards one might gain.

## Physical Handicaps

Vision. Since eye sufficiency has such direct bearing on the efficient use of the library, the questionnaire sought to establish possible shortcomings in eye care, and the extent of certain types of eye disease. This information might also be used to detect a number of persons who might be eligible to receive "talking books" from the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Frankfort, Kentucky. Many persons with marginal handicaps (those not legally considered "blind") are not aware that this service may be available to them. Certain other aspects of "seeing" that might have a bearing on the "comfortable" use of the library are also included.

Ophthamologists generally recommend that eyes and eyeglasses be checked at least every two years. Ninety-seven and eight-tenths percent said they wear glasses when they read. Sixty and eight-tenths percent of the respondents said they eyes had been checked either by a doctor or at a clinic during the preceding two years; 47.8% by a doctor and 13.0% at a clinic. Consequently, almost 4 out of every 10 persons who wear glasses may be wearing glasses that no longer provide adequate correction. It is also possible that some who wear glasses do not wear prescription glasses--sometimes people just buy a pair of glasses at the dime store that helps them see a little better than they did before.

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* Current Opinion, Vol. 1, No. 6, (June, 1973), p. 59.

In a pilot program for vision screening in Dallas, Texas, 960 retired persons aged 40 to 103 were tested.* Of the total participants in the program, 32% had not had a vision examination for three years or more and 3.5% had never had one. Forty-one percent were referred to local vision care specialists for further diagnosis; 5.1% for suspected glaucoma, 5.2% for cataract evaluation and 1.5% for other health problems detected through the eyes.

Four common causes of blindness (and if not blindness, at least reduced vision) in people over 65 are macular degeneration, cataracts, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.** Macular degeneration is a fairly well pronounced opacity of the cornea, apparent as a gray spot. This condition affects 20% of the older population, and the average age of occurrence is 78. Cataracts, or clouding of the lens of the eye, affects about 17% of the older population and its average age of occurrence is 72. Cataracts cause a general decrease in vision as well as a decrease in the amount of light reaching the eye and results in an excessive glare in sunlight. Glaucoma affects about 13% of the older population, and its average age of occurrence is 73 years. Glaucoma,or elevated pressure within the eye, greatly affects peripheral vision. Eyedrops used to alleviate the condition constrict the pupil of the eye and thus reduces the amount of light getting into the eye. Diabetic retinopathy is a non-inflammatory disease of the retina as a result of a diabetic condition. This condition affects about 12% of the older population and its average age of occurrence is 60 years.

It is estimated that the number of blind people in the United States is about 380,000 or 19 per thousand. Legal blindness is defined as vision of 20/200 or less in the best eye and a visual field of 20 degrees or less. This means a person could read the big "E" on the eye chart at 20 feet, or be able to see a person's nose and ear at the same time. Such restricted vision would provide poor or mediocre ability to walk about. Assuming that four or five times the number of legally blind people have some visual impairment, it is possible that about 1.9 million older people, or 10 percent of the total elderly population might have significant vision problems. A person whose corrected vision is 20/50 or better rarely has much problem either in outside life or reading. If an individual has 20/70 vision and an adequate field, he can get around pretty well. Often the person with only 20/200 vision can be enabled to read with magnification and a good light close to the reading material.*

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* Aging, No. 226, August, 1973, HEW, Office of Human Development, Administration on Aging, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 16.

** Leslie S. Libow, "Older People's Medical and Physiological Characteristics: Some Implications for Transportation", published in Transportation and Aging, Selected Issues, based on proceedings on the Interdisciplinary Workshop on Transportation and Aging, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1970), p. 14.

In the question of eye disease included in the questionnaire, only 6.5% stated they had cataract and 2.2% had glaucoma, a somewhat lesser figure than that cited by Libow. This is to be expected since it is likely that persons severely afflicted would be somewhat limited as to activities. Additionally, the respondent group includes a fairly large proportion of persons younger in age than the average age of occurrence of the various diseases mentioned.

Since cataracts cause a direct loss of light entering the eye and glaucoma by means of medication for its alleviation, causes loss of light reaching the eye, both of these conditions could have a direct affect on the comfortable use of the library. After all, libraries are lighted for persons with "normal" vision. Generally speaking, older people require more light to see as well as younger persons. At age 45, it is estimated that illumination will have to be increased by 50 percent to reach optimum conditions of sharpness as compared to the light requirements of a 20 year old. By the late 50's a 100% increase in brightness is required and by age 80, an increase of three and a third times is necessary. Consequently, it is very likely that levels of lighting in most libraries is not sufficient for comfortable reading for persons 45 and older.** A possible solution might be a special reading area in which light intensities are increased. Merely increasing the amount of light is not the whole solution, however, as it must be attained without an increased amount of glare. Glare can distort or mute the outlines of objects, thus increasing the difficulty of seeing.

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* Don M. Gordon, "Eye Problems of the Aged", in Working with Older People, Clinical Aspects of Aging, Vol. IV, (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, Public Health Service, 1971), p. 28.

** From an unpublished paper arising from the Housing Group Participants at the White House Conference, by Jack Billingsley, p. 1.

While I have been unable to find any figures showing the numbers and ages of persons wearing bi-focals, there surely must be substantial numbers in the over 45 age group. Bi-focals pose a particularly awkward problem in "reading shelves". Generally, objects are in focus in an area between a few inches from the nose to a distance approximately arm's length. So far as acuity of vision is concerned, the area immediately beyond an arm's length may constitute a pretty fuzzy area. Objects generally return to focus at about 5 or 6 feet. Reading book titles and catalog numbers either must be done with one's nose almost on the back of the book (sometimes a difficult maneuver when the books are either at the top or bottom of the stack areas) or one must back up far enough to get in focus with the "distance" part of the glasses. This is sometimes impossible due to the width of the stack aisles. While alleviation of this particular difficulty may not be possible, it is one other aspect which makes open-stack library use for some people rather uncomfortable.

Hearing. Hearing difficulties may also create a barrier to library use. Loss of hearing can mean loss of contact with life and may induce depression and withdrawal. About 30% of the persons in the 65-79 year age group suffer from some degree of hearing impairment. Unfortunately, advancing age produces a marked degree of hearing impairment--in fact, for ages 65-79 the rate of impairment is 40 times greater than for those 18-24 years of age.*

If a person needs an explanation for finding materials, the answer may not be loud enough or the words may run together or be distorted so as not to be understandable. This need for greater volume may be especially embarassing to persons who feel they must either maintain absolute silence or not speak above a whisper in the library. While a hearing aid is definitely helpful, mere increase in volume may not solve the problem. Many whose hearing could be improved by a well-fitting hearing aid do not take advantage of this correction since it is estimated that among those 45 years and over with hearing loss in both ears, only one person in five uses a hearing aid.*

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* Health in the Later Years of Life, National Center for Health Statistics, (Rockville, Md., USGPO, 1971), p. 28.

Lipreading may also provide additional understanding. Nonetheless, in speechreading certain vocal sounds are not visible on the lips so a person reading lips receives a series of intermittent clues (through such "visible" sounds as (p), (b), (m), (f), and (v), together with facial expressions and bodily gestures to provide a meaningful interpretation. Have _you_ ever tried to follow the conversation on television when the sound is turned off? It is a little like reading shorthand--a lot of material must be filled in. The same problems arise in providing audio-visual materials for this age segment--volume must be increased, speed of presentation decreased if possible and extraneous noises and distractions reduced to a minimum.

_Arthritis and Orthopedic Defects_. According to statistics from the National Health Center, almost 80% of the 65-79 year age group are afflicted with some degree of osteoarthritis, a degenerative joint disease which most often affects the hands and feet. In the 65-79 year age group, 50.3% of the men and 44.9% of the women in the United States are afflicted with a mild form of osteoarthritis.**

Thumbing through the card catalog looking for the necessary information to locate a book with fingers stiffened and painful from arthritis can prove a tiring and discouraging task. In larger libraries, a good deal of walking may be necessary to locate a book. This may be made difficult both by arthritis (as it affects the feet) and by orthopedic defects--impairments of limbs, back and trunk. In the 65 years and over group. 17.4 men per 100 suffer such disabilities, while 19.7 women are so afflicted.*** The principle cause of these impairments is injury.

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* _Ibid_.

** _Ibid_.

*** _Ibid_., p. 29.

Orthopedic defects may make reaching up or stooping over difficult. When a patron finds the proper stack location for his book, the chances are two out of three that it will not be at waist level. Either the patron must bend down, head towards the floor, or reach or climb up on a stool (if one is readily available) to reach his book. Light levels at the top and bottom of the stacks may be inadequate, so it is difficult to locate the title or call number. Due to a lessened sense of balance or a reduced tactile sense in the extremities, either may result in a fall. Additional strength is often necessary to pull a book out of a tightly packed space, which could further contribute to the likelihood of losing one's balance.

Health and Physical Mobility. It would appear, both from the answers on the questionnaire, and from the attendance at the various group meetings, that the respondents contacted are generally unrestricted as to physical mobility and in relatively good health. Only 26.1% said they are limited in some of their activities, while 27.7% state they are not limited in any of their activities. Fifty-six and five-tenths percent felt themselves to be in either "excellent" or "good" health; 17.4% as excellent and 39.1% as good. Ten and nine-tenths percent stated their health as "poor" and 32.6% felt their health was "fair".

Building Barriers. Many older public libraries are "Carnegie" buildings--and generally those buildings were designed to present a dignified and imposing public image. This image often included a fairly long flight of steps up to the front entrance. Also, the interiors were often designed with flights of steps between floors. About 22% of the persons 65 years and over have a heart condition which results in some activity limitation.* Climbing stairs may pose a severe limitation to those persons if other means of entering the building and gaining access to upper floors are not available. Aged people should not be expected to climb more than one flight of stairs, and the maximum riser height should not exceed 7 inches.

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* Ibid., Table 8. Average Number and Percent Distribution of Persons with Limitation of Activity Due to Selected Chronic Conditions at Ages 45-64 and 65 and Over: United States, July 1965-June 1967, p. 34.

The inconvenience of outside stairs may be overcome by providing a ramp while the difficulty of the inside stairs may be circumvented by providing an elevator for the patrons' use. It is suggested, however, that large, easily visible signs at street level should indicate the ramp location. Elevator locations should be clearly designated, together with a designation that they can be used by the public. Automatic elevator doors should be timed to close more slowly. If possible, swinging handles should be large enough to be easily grasped.

Well cared for library floors are often highly polished. While this may be aesthetically pleasing, and a good maintenance procedure, glare from such a floor may reduce awareness of irregularities in thresholds, stairs, etc. Such a floor surface may also be slippery which increases the possibility of falling. Low gloss, non-skid wax may reduce both glare and slipperiness and produce an additional margin of safety. Some elderly women become bowlegged and walk with a waddling gait which results in their not placing their feet as securely against the floor. Carpeting may provide a more secure footing than a bare floor, gives some acoustical control, and has the additional advantage of reducing the likelihood of injury if someone does fall. Falls are not a minor problem in the 65 and over segment. Nearly 80,000 persons died in 1971 as a result of accidental injuries.* An additional 800,000 older people suffered disabling injuries lasting at least one day. Total accidents claimed 17,600 persons in the over 75 age group and 10,500 in the 65-74 age group. Although accounting for about 10% of the population, they accounted for 24% of all accidents. About half the fatal accidents were caused by falls, 26% of which occurred in public places and institutions.

One of the most disorienting architectural features in hospitals and nursing homes tends to be the halls as they seem to be the least differentiated and least identifiable areas. What does the library have in addition to its own hallways? Row upon row of stack areas whose location is defined primarily by catalog numbers. In some larger libraries it would be possible for an older person to become confused and "lost". Signs to indicate the direction of the exit might prove comforting.

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* Aging, No. 219, (Jan., 1973), p. 14.

Bathrooms should be readily accessible on each floor with their locations clearly marked.

When one considers the comfort of older patrons who read in the library, lighting levels should be increased, at least in some limited areas, and temperatures should be increased to approximately 78 degrees Farenheit. (This temperature may not be possible considering the present energy shortage, but the suggested 68 degrees would be definitely uncomfortable.) Library chairs often are armless. In some of the libraries decorated in a "modern" style, chairs are relatively low as are reading tables, etc. With reduced leg strength, it may be difficult for an older person to rise without being able to push himself to a standing position against the arms of a chair. Exceptionally low chairs may be even more difficult for an older patron.

Every effort should be made to remove or alleviate such building barriers as stairways, slippery floors, inadequate lighting and heating and unsuitable furniture.

## Personal Inadequacies

Probably the most basic inadequacy felt by the older patron is lack of education. For those 65 and over, median years of school completed for 1969-70 was 8.7, and only 28.2% were high school graduates. When one considers that illiteracy is defined as less than 5 years of education (and it is possible that even that grade level is too low), and that persons who left school 50 years ago may have lost reading skill due to non-use, increasing library service to that portion of the aging population is particularly difficult. Hazard respondents, however, show between 1-4 years of high school as the median years of school completed.

Persons who have never or rarely used the library may be hesitant to admit they don't know how to use the library. Loss of various roles after retirement may be considered as societal rejection by some and to chance rebuff in a volunteer activity could be considered further rejection. In some activities, a person can watch others and gauge his activities accordingly even if he had never participated before. It is difficult to see how a person could learn to use the library effectively without admitting he didn't know how to search for a book in the card catalog and have some explanation of the classification numbers. Often, too, the circulation desk is manned by high school students or quite young persons and an older person may hesitate to ask a young person for help. Young people generally take library service for granted and they might not realize the difficulty an older person might have in learning what the library could provide.

Many of the barriers to library use by older persons may not be remediable--certain physical handicaps cannot be reduced and it may not be possible to remove certain architectural barriers short of substantial building renovation or removal of library facilities to completely new quarters. Personal inadequacies, however, may be rendered less limiting by classes designed to acquaint persons with the use of the library and a number of the services the library might perform which do not necessitate learning through the written word, such as films and lectures.

## Attitudes Toward the Library

A library attitude scale consisting of ten statements expressing commonly held beliefs about libraries and librarians was presented to the Hazard respondents. In some cases agreement with the statement constituted a "positive" answer while in others the "disagree" answer was considered the "positive" response. The following table shows the percentage of the respondents who gave positive responses to each of the ten statements.

## TABLE XV

| Statement | Percent of Respondents Who Gave a Positive Answer | |
|---|---|---|
| | Agree | Disagree |
| The library is a pleasant place to spend a few hours. | 87.0 | |
| Librarians care more about books than they care about people. | | 67.4 |
| The library is mostly for students. | | 60.9 |
| The library provides a valuable service to the community. | 76.1 | |
| If a person cannot read well, there is no use going to the library. | | 54.3 |
| Librarians can suggest good books for a person to read. | 82.6 | |
| Librarians will help a person find what he is looking for if he asks for help. | 80.4 | |
| It is too hard to find what you want in the library. | | 67.4 |
| The library is a place where you can only whisper, not talk aloud. | | 58.7 |
| The library has programs to help people. | 71.7 | |

More than 80% of the respondents agree that the library is a pleasant place, that librarians will provide requested assistance in locating materials, and that they can suggest good books. Over 70% feel that the library has programs helpful to people and that the library provides a valuable community service. More than 60% disagreed that librarians care more about books than people; that the library is mostly for students and that it is too hard to find what you want in the library. It appears from the answers on the library attitude scale that the respondents are very favorably disposed towards the library. On the library attitude scale with a maximum of 10 points, 56.5% of the respondents has between 8 and 10 points while only 13.0% had low scores of from 0 to 3 points.

## Library Use and Anticipated Use

Many people are not aware of the scope of services the modern public library performs. In an effort to make persons aware of some of these services (by merely reading the question), a list was made and the respondents were asked if they would like to use a particular service. The most frequently used services were going to the library to look up the answer to a question (37.8% of the respondents had used this service) and checking out books (35.6%). Interestingly enough, the next most frequently mentioned activity was attending an art exhibit, mentioned by 31.1% of the respondents. An additional 4.4% mentioned that they would like to participate in this activity. Only 11.1% had ever attended a talk or movie program. Whether this might indicate that the respondents prefer art exhibits to talk and movie programs, or whether the art exhibits are more frequent or better publicized is not known. Apparently, however, the art exhibits are attended by many in this group.

In spite of the relatively high interest shown in attending an art exhibit, only 2 persons had ever checked a picture out and none stated an interest in using this service. Nevertheless, with the interest in art exhibits, talks on art appreciation and an accompanying display of art books which the library owns, and pictures the library has to loan, might increase interest in this service.

The Perry County Public Library is located conveniently to the downtown area, but also serves the entire county. Twenty percent state they have visited a bookmobile. Another 11.1% would like to do so. As budget and personnel permit, the bookmobile program might be expanded.

Although 78.3% of the respondents said they read a newspaper nearly every day, only 24.4% have ever read a newspaper in the library. A likely explanation is that the local newspaper is the one read and no purpose would be served by going down to the library to read it. It is possible that if a large print newspaper were available that it might be of some interest. Seventy-one and seven-tenths percent of the respondents state that they read magazines; yet, only 24.4% say they have ever read magazines in the library. Thirty-three persons stated they read magazines, but 13 were non-library users. These 13 persons could be considered "potentials". Given the interest in reading magazines, it might be possible to encourage persons to begin to use the library through this medium. Magazine subscriptions are relatively expensive and copies are usually read only once and discarded. Consequently, greater emphasis on reading a variety of magazines in the library once a month might be suggested, especially for those magazines not commonly found in every household, i.e., Arizona Highways with its beautiful landscapes, Audubon Magazine, Natural History, Car and Driver, Consumer Reports, etc. For persons of limited reading skills and vocabulary, a number of magazines could convey information and aesthetic pleasure through illustrations and photographs.

The percentage of persons stating they read books is 60.9 or 28 people. Nine of the book readers are non-users of the library. These persons may be considered "potentials".

Only one area of library service appears to be desired by more persons than are at present using them--that of using the shut-in service. In the area of talking books, no additional persons indicated they might use this service. This could possibly be because respondents did not know what a talking book is since they did indicate an interest in "shut-in" service.

A fairly high percentage indicated an interest in listening to records. Displays and perhaps music appreciation lectures might increase circulation of available records.

For more detailed information on the use of library services and anticipated use, see Table XVI, which follows.

## TABLE XVI

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED

(in percentage of total respondents)

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Go to the library to look up a special question | 37.8% | 8.9% |
| Check out books | 35.6 | 8.9 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 31.1 | 4.4 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 26.7 | 6.7 |
| Read magazines in the library | 24.4 | 6.7 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 24.4 | 2.2 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 20.0 | 11.1 |
| Check out large print books | 13.3 | 6.7 |
| Use the copying machine | 11.1 | 4.4 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 11.1 | 0 |
| Listen to records | 8.9 | 8.9 |
| Check a place location on a library map | 6.7 | 2.2 |
| Check out talking books or cassettes | 6.7 | 0 |
| Use shut-in service | 4.4 | 6.7 |
| Check out a film | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 4.4 | 0 |
| Use a microcard reader | 2.2 | 0 |

## Reading Interests

As an aid in the selection of reading materials of special interest to retired persons, respondents were questioned on the subject matter they preferred. A reading list which included both fiction and non-fiction areas was included.

The most frequently mentioned subjects among the fiction were short stories, romance and historical fiction and for the non-fiction, religion, current affairs and travel. For a more detailed description of reading interests see Table XVII, which follows.

## TABLE XVII

## READING INTERESTS

| Books | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Short stories | 40.0 |
| Romance | 24.4 |
| Historical fiction | 20.0 |
| Adventure | 17.8 |
| Humor | 15.6 |
| Mysteries | 13.3 |
| Westerns | 8.9 |
| Animal stories | 6.7 |
| Science fiction | 2.2 |
| Non-fiction | |
| Religion | 42.2 |
| Current affairs | 26.7 |
| Travel | 22.2 |
| Homemaking | 22.2 |
| Biography | 20.0 |
| Poetry | 20.0 |
| History | 17.8 |
| About music | 17.8 |
| Nature | 15.6 |
| Art | 15.6 |
| Plays | 6.7 |
| Business | 6.7 |
| Science | 4.4 |
| Philosophy | 4.4 |

## The UP Index

In an effort to predict the number of persons contacted who might most readily become library users, a 7-item index (hereinafter referred to as the User Potential or UP Index) has been constructed. It is assumed that the greater the cumulative score on the UP Index, the more likely it is that the person with such a score would be a library user. Those having scores in the middle ranges would be more likely to be infrequent users of the library and those with low scores would be most likely to be non-users of library services. Interpretation is complicated somewhat by non-responses to the library-oriented questions. However, it is assumed that this failure to answer indicates a lack of interest and such answers are given an accordingly low score.

If a respondent lacked the necessary education to use the library, if he were highly alienated, if he neither read books nor enjoyed reading, and if he had never, up to this point in his life, used the library, it is highly unlikely that he would begin to use the library after retirement. However, if he had the necessary education and liked reading books, if he had used the library even very infrequently, it is more likely that he might establish the habit of using the library (especially if programs were especially chosen to fit his needs and interests). Alternatively, if he enjoyed reading, had never used the library but had a negative attitude to the library, the solution might be an attempt to increase community appreciation and awareness of the services the library can provide.

The UP Index consists of the following components:

1. Highest level of education
2. Subjective attitude to happiness
3. Alienation score
4. Enjoyment of reading
5. Book reading
6. Former library use
7. Library attitude score

Each of the above components is believed to contribute to the likelihood of library use. The cross-tabulation of library use with education shows that the greatest increase in library usage occurs in conjunction with some college education. Consequently, college education and graduate education are weighted somewhat more heavily than elementary or high school education. With regard to the subjective attitude to happiness, it is felt that new or renewed experience would be more likely to be acceptable if a person were generally happy with his situation. If a person has a low alienation score, his orientation would more likely be outward and library use might therefore be of more value to him in expanding his outlook and explaining his problems. Obviously, if a person just does not enjoy reading, he would not be very likely to use the library. Interestingly enough, though, with the advent of audio-visual equipment, persons who are not necessarily "readers" may be able to be informed and entertained through library programs in ways that were not heretofore possible. Since most people do not go to the library to read newspapers or magazines, the most likely candidates for library use would be book readers. Since learning to use the library does take some effort on the part of the patron to use the library effectively, it is felt that if such library use were not an entirely new experience, there would be less resistence to using the library. After all, it may be difficult to start something entirely new after retirement. Finally, how a person feels about the library and its services would have some bearing on whether or not it were used. The potential patron may have had unpleasant experiences in his earlier years when he tried to use the library. Libraries have changed in attitude and improved and expanded services in the last twenty years or so and are now (generally speaking) more service and less custodial oriented places. Initial reluctance might have to be overcome by some kind of orientation in the use of the library and an assurance of a friendly and helpful welcome of the older patron by the library staff.

The following table indicated scoring used in the UP Index together with the locations of the component parts on two revisions of the questionnaire. (Refer to Forms 3 and 4 of the questionnaire as shown in Appendix A.)

## SCORING FOR UP INDEX

| Question No. Rev. #4 | Old Questionnaire | Subject | Score | Maximum Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION | | |
| | | Elementary | 0 | |
| | | Any high school | 1 | |
| | | Any college | 3 | |
| | | Graduate School | 4 | 4 |
| 18 | 21 | HAPPY | | |
| | | On old questionnaire, if fairly happy or very happy | 1 | |
| | | Happy or very happy | 1 | 1 |
| 19 (A-E) | 22 (1-5) | ALIENATION SCORE (SCORE) | | |
| | | Note: Old questionnaires are coded in opposite direction. | | |
| | | If score is 0, 1 or 2 | 0 | |
| | | If score is 3, 4 or 5 | 1 | 1 |
| 30 | 33 (1-10) | ENJOY READING | | |
| | | Note: On old questionnaire if score is 5 or more code | 2 | |
| | | If yes | 2 | 2 |
| 33 | 39 | READ BOOKS | | |
| | | If yes | 1 | 2 |
| 36 | 45 | FORMER LIBRARY USE | | |
| | | Never (if not answered, code | 0 | |
| | | If checked, code | -2 | |
| | | Count one for each check | | 4 |
| 38 (1-10) | 49 (1-10) | LIBRARY ATTITUDE SCORE (SCORE 2) | | |
| | | If score is 0 to 3 | 0 | |
| | | If score is 4,5,6, or 7 | 1 | |
| | | If score is 8,9, or 10 | 2 | |

A cross-tabulation of the scores of individuals on the UP Index with library use resulted in the following table:

## HAZARD USER POTENTIAL SCORE AS ASSOCIATED WITH LIBRARY USE

| UP Score | User No. | User Percent | Infrequent User No. | Infrequent User Percent | Non-user No. | Non-user Percent | Total No. | Total Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 - 15 | 1 | 2.9 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2.9 | 2 | 5.8 |
| 8 - 11 | 10 | 29.4 | 4 | 11.8 | 2 | 5.9 | 16 | 47.1 |
| Below 7 | 3 | 8.8 | 2 | 5.9 | 11 | 32.3 | 16 | 47.1 |
|  | 14 | 41.1 | 6 | 17.7 | 14 | 41.1 | 34 | 100.0% |

Missing Observations:  12

It can be seen that 11 of 14 library users have scores between 8 and 15. Only one person with a score between 12 and 15 is a non-user. Of those with intermediate scores (between 8 and 11), about 29.4% are users, about 11.8% are infrequent users and 5.9% are non-users. Of those persons scoring below 7 on the UP Index, 3 of 16 are users; 2 are infrequent users and 11 or 32.2% are non-users. Thus it can be seen that since only two persons had scores between 12 and 15, no conclusion can be drawn regarding high scores association with library usage. However, intermediate scores do appear to be associated with use and infrequent use and low scores primarily with non-use.

When determining a realistic target group for increase in library services, generally speaking, the older population who might use the library will be reduced by

(1) those over 75 years of age since their level of activity may be sharply reduced

(2) those who have less than an 8th grade education

(3) those who are afflicted with physical handicaps or chronic conditions which result in a number of days of restricted activity

(4) those who are institutionalized

(5) those who are unable to get to the library due to lack of transportation

Given these restrictive conditions, the total number of older persons in any service area could not be considered potential library users. Nonetheless, some persons in categories (3), (4) and (5) may still become library patrons through the medium of specialized out-reach programs.

It is anticipated that it would be easier to motivate persons with high and intermediate scores who are non-users to become users of library service. These would include the person with a score between 12 and 15 and the 2 persons with scores between 8 and 11. It is further anticipated that it might be easier to induce those infrequent users with intermediate and high scores to use the library more frequently. Thus there would be 3 "potentials" in the non-user category and 4 in the infrequent user category. Accordingly, it would appear that since the respondent group is relatively small, a fairly small number of additional library users in this age group could be considered "successful" out reach. Consequently, judgment of program success should be cautiously interpreted in light of the attributes of the respondents.

## Possible Programs at Hazard

Since the survey consisted of a relatively small number of older people, especially men, it is difficult to say whether the respondents are truly representative of the older population in Perry County. However, the results are quite similar to those collected at other area sites which had larger samples.

The most popular fictional subject as shown by the reading interest profile is short stories with romance, historical fiction, adventure and humor as their second, third, fourth and fifth preferences. The most popular non-fictional subject is religion with current affairs, travel, homemaking, biography and poetry as their second, third, fourth, and fifth (tie) interests.

The most frequently mentioned leisure time activity was church or volunteer work; yard work or gardening was second; taking a vacation trip was third; any kind of sewing or needlepoint was fourth; going driving for pleasure was fifth; and going to plays or concerts was sixth.

The highest percentage of anticipated library use is visiting the bookmobile. There is a three-way tie for second in anticipated use among checking out books, using the copying machine, and listening to records.

Since 11% of the people surveyed mentioned that they would like to visit the bookmobile, it would be of interest to check the collections to see if it coincided with the reading interest profile. There is no public transit system in Hazard so it is especially difficult for some elderly people with physical handicaps and fixed incomes to get library service any other way except from the bookmobile or shut-in service--which also received a high anticipated library use percentage. Since most of those who were in the survey were active, mobile elderly, one could naturally understand no need for a talking book machine or cassette. However, national statistics from the Library of Congress show that 65% of the participants in the Talking Book Program are elderly, and perhaps this should be kept in mind when reviewing the collection on the bookmobile. If a demonstration talking book and application forms were kept on the bookmobile perhaps those elderly who are confined to their homes could find out about these items through friends who visit the bookmobile. Also the collection of large print books should be considered in regards to the reading interest profiles. A collection of pamphlets with special appeal to the elderly such as those on food stamps, Social Security, and Medicare/Medicaid could be placed on the bookmobile.

Another approach which could be used to advertise the bookmobile service and talking book machines would be to place posters or flyers in agencies such as the Social Security Office, Public Assistance, and Senior Citizen Center.

The last suggested approach of extending library services to the elderly would be to choose more stops in areas with a high concentration of elderly such as Hazard, Bulan and Blue Diamond, and contact the American Red Cross in regards to their Project Alert.

Another library service which received a high anticipated use percentage was listening to records. In order to meet this perceived need a program similar to Cleveland Public Library's Music Appreciation Group could be developed. Such a program could include book displays, and exhibits on famous composers and musicians, musical instruments, and music therapy. Speakers from the local community college and/or Hazard Community College could be scheduled to give a talk on the project. Also, the local people who have musical talent could be asked to play at one of the group's programs. Since the Perry County Library has two phonographs and a collection of 1,370 records, this equipment could be utilized appropriately in the group's programs.

The Perry County Library is very fortunate in having audio-visual equipment which is capable of producing closed circuit television programs. Perhaps this equipment can be used in conjunction with a program for the elderly. Since short stories is ranked first as a reading interest, these stories could be acted out before a camera for later viewing. The Hazard Community College might be helpful in setting up such a program and providing communications expertise. Also, the college in Jackson has had experience in developing videotaped programs and the communications people there might be helpful consultants.

The most popular non-fictional reading interest was religion--this has proven to be the same in the other area sites surveyed. Some programs which could be developed keeping this interest in mind are a religious workshop on aging, a read and sew group where religious materials along with other popular subjects were read, and a program inviting ministers to become acquainted with the library services in the community so they can tell their church members.

A religious workshop on aging could involve the Hazard-Perry County Ministerial Association in planning a program which would deal with such topics as church sponsored activities for the elderly, spiritual well being of older people (a topic discussed in the 1971 White House Conference on Aging), and death and dying.

A read and sew group would satisfy two items checked on the questionnaire as being a popular reading interest and leisure activity. Small sections from the Bible could be read while the group sews items for themselves or a project. Both sewing and church and volunteer work were mentioned as popular leisure activities.

The Roddenbery Memorial Library in Cairo, Georgia, had a special policy of inviting all new ministers and their families to tour the library so that they might become acquainted with the services available through the library. They informed all the local ministers of their special programs and services to the blind and physically and mentally handicapped. The library provided meeting places for Sunday School Clinics and prepared Lenten brochures with a bibliography prior to Easter. A similar program could be developed in Hazard paying particular concern to acquainting the ministers to the library services for the elderly.

Current affairs was mentioned as the second most popular non-fictional subject. A debate program on current affairs such as Watergate, ecology, and the energy crisis could be planned with a group of senior citizens and some high school students. The "Never Too Late Group" at Boston Public Library held a similar program which brought the two generations together. This program has appeal because it gives both groups a chance to relate to someone other than their peers. Many older people's grandchildren have moved away from their original homes to find employment, go to school, or marry, so such a program might partially substitute for this missing familial relationship.

The third most popular non-fictional subject is travel and taking a vacation was mentioned as the third most popular leisure time activity. Naturally a travelogue program could be sponsored at the library. The older people themselves could show pictures and slides of where they went on vacation and develop a script to go along with these visual aids. Intermittently, films on different cities, states or countries could be shwon with a discussion following. A book display featuring the next place to be discussed could be set up at each meeting. Some libraries such as Cleveland Public Library and Boston Public Library have been quite successful in their travel programs. Perhaps these programs could take place at noon and the elderly people could bring their sack lunches to the library for the occasion or these programs could be taken to the nutrition program for the elderly.

The fourth most popular non-fiction subject is homemaking. A consumer affairs program could be scheduled during Senior Citizens Month of May. Speakers from the Consumer Protection Division in Frankfort, the Public Defenders Office, or appropriate legal representative, the county extension agency, and the sheriff's office could be asked to speak. Displays and films can be used as appropriate visual aids.

The second most popular leisure time activite was listed as yard work or gardening, an appropriate pasttime when food prices are so high. The library could sponsor an Earth or Ecology Day. Representatives from an Agriculture Department and Hazard Community College could be asked to speak on insecticides, planting, and growing, canning and preserving garden fruits and vegetables, and flower arranging. Such a program would have appeal to both sexes instead of just one, and it lends itself to demonstrations which would make the talks more appealing.

In November 1973 Hazard started its Nutrition Program for the Elderly which is federally funded under the Older Americans Act. The survey conducted for this Kentucky Library Project probably did not touch these people because of the newness of the group. However, a recreational-educational program from the library in the form of a film program might be of special interest to this group. In order to get the person's attention, it would be best to start out with light entertaining films and then proceed to educational fields. The Administration on Aging's *Catalogue of Films* can be used in selecting various items on health, adult day care, retirement adjustment when the educational film showings begin.

## Summary

It must be pointed out that the Hazard respondents are doubly self-selected--first, because by their own choice they are members of groups and second, because they agreed to participate in the survey. Additionally, it must be remembered that they are mostly women, fairly well-educated, healthy, mobile, and predominantly white collar workers. Most participate in a number of social activities and in general, they are happy, satisfied with their income and housing arrangements and find their retirement situation either about the same or better than they expected. Even though the respondents have many attributes favorable to the use of the library, the User Potential Index indicates that only about an additional 10% of the respondents might become users of library services either through non-users beginning to use the library or by increasing library use of infrequent users.

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# SOMERSET

# IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICE
# FOR
# OLDER ADULTS

Somerset

IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICE
FOR OLDER ADULTS

SOMERSET

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# IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICE
# FOR OLDER ADULTS
# SOMERSET

## Introduction

Mindful of the practical objectives of the Kentucky Library Project as a whole--generally speaking, to enhance the lives of older persons through increasing and extending library services to them; and more particularly, to establish innovative models of library service--the present report will be presented in a somewhat different style from the usual academic research report. It is felt that the report on the characteristics of users and non-users of library services would not be particularly useful to the librarians and staff in furthering the objectives of the project if couched in terms of the null hypothesis and including a detailed description of the methodology and statistical analysis. Alternatively, it is our hope that the materials can be presented in such a way as not only to impart information about the respondents in the particular location but to induce greater sympathy and understanding of some of the problems older persons face when using the library. Additional explanatory or supportive date may be included from the community profile, the library profile and the fields of gerontology, medicine, architecture, etc. While many of the barriers to library use may be inherent in the process of aging and therefore in some ways irremediable, the greater awareness of these problems may generate a more relaxed approach to difficulties which arise and may provide a happier milieu for both librarian and older user.

Materials and activities generated by the research may prove productive at several levels:

(1) The administration of the questionnaire itself can provide a positive or constructive element in alerting persons to many of the services the library can provide. It is good public relations. In essence, it says, "Your library cares what _you_ think.", and "We want to do a better job for _you_."

(2) The methodology (especially the use of group interviews) provides a less-often-used approach in the gathering of information.

(3) At the level of the frequency counts, such information may be put to direct use. For example, if frequency counts show many persons prefer to read history and historical fiction, more titles in these areas may be placed in collections in retirement homes, or sent out on bookmobiles which serve an older segment of the population. If sufficient numbers of persons are found to be interested in gardening as a hobby, or various handcrafts, etc., classes in such areas might be instituted and books provided in those areas by the library.

Certain of the measures may be useful to other agencies serving this segment of the population. For example, if a high percentage of the respondents live in one-person households, these persons might be interested in programs similar to Meals on Wheels in which food is centrally prepared and delivered to a person's home or in a "Country Gathering" where people go to a central location and take meals together. Even some two-person families might be interested in this service, particularly if one of them is physically unable to shop for food and prepare meals, or if both suffer physical disabilities. Often better nutrition is achieved which might result in greater participation in other ways such as library use.

(4) Statistical analysis might help to determine those underlying attributes most necessary to increased library usage. A User Potential Index (hereinafter referred to as the UP Index) has been formulated, in an effort to determine what portion of the non-library-user group might most easily be encouraged to become library users, and which of the infrequent users might be encouraged to use the library more often.

## What do we hope to find out?

The questionnaire is expected to elicit baseline data concerning differences in various socio-economic characteristics such as marital status, living arrangements, educational attainments, and sources of and amounts of income. Areas of activity such as leisure interests, and social and community contacts will be analyzed. Finally, responses regarding attitude toward the library, use and anticipated use of library services and reading interests will be interpreted. A synthesis of the above information in terms of users and non-users of library services (in conjunction with community and library profiles already completed as a separate segment of the Kentucky Library Project) will be used to initiate innovative library services.

## What people were included in the study?

Participants in the study are included by age and status in the labor force. Persons over the age of 65 are included, irrespective of their status in the labor force. Persons younger than 65 are included if they say they are "retired". These might include wives, younger than 65, of retired men. Generally, if a woman is married to a retired man, she considers herself "retired" also. Some widows consider themselves "retired" even though they might never have worked for wages. Certain persons "retire" from positions which require that they fulfill a certain number of years of service. These persons might be "retired" from a career job (perhaps military) although they are presently employed either full or part time.

## How was the material gathered?

The initial problem of contacting older persons was solved by asking for the cooperation of various groups of persons in the service area of the library who were already members of clubs primarily composed of older persons. Group interviews were used in which a questionnaire was filled out by the respondents at various locations in Somerset during the early part of 1973.

## How was library use defined?

A "user" is a person who has been to the library within the last month.

An "infrequent user" is a person who has been to the library within the last six months, but not during the last month.

A "non-user" is a person who stated he has not been to the library during the last six months or who stated he didn't know when he last went to the library.

## How can the respondents be described?

One hundred nineteen persons filled out questionnaires: one hundred females and seventeen males, which included one black male and one black female. Two persons failed to answer the question on sex. The sex ratio for the State of Kentucky for 1970 according to the U.S. Census figures was 96.3 males for every 100 females.* As can be readily seen, the group is underrepresented as to men and blacks, although the black population is extremely small in Pulaski County.

Respondents belonged to one of six different groups: a women's group based on patriotism, a retired railroad employees' group, a senior citizen's club, a literary group, a music appreciation group, and a Living and Learning class sponsored by the Somerset Community College.

The following table shows the group distribution of respondents:

TABLE I

GROUP DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

(in percentages)

| Group | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Group A (patriotic women's group) | 27 | 22.7 |
| Group B (retired railroad employees) | 27 | 22.7 |
| Group C (music appreciation) | 5 | 4.2 |
| Group D (senior citizens club) | 13 | 10.9 |
| Group E (literary group) | 12 | 10.1 |
| Group F (Living and Learning class) | 35 | 29.4 |
| | 119 | 100.0 |

Since the service area of the library embodies all of Pulaski County, it might be wise at this point to make some comparison of the age distribution of the respondents to the age distribution of persons 55 years of age and over in Pulaski County.

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* U.S. Bureau of the Census, Characteristics of the Population, Vol. 1, Part 19, Kentucky, p. 19

## TABLE II

## AGE DISTRIBUTION

## PULASKI COUNTY, KENTUCKY

## 55 YEARS AND OVER

(in percent of population over 55)

| | |
|---|---|
| Total county population | 35,234 |
| Total population 55 and over | 7,950 |

| Age in Years | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Over 80 | 816 | 10 |
| 75 - 79 | 902 | 11 |
| 70 - 74 | 1,238 | 16 |
| 65 - 69 | 1,510 | 19 |
| 55 - 64 | 3,439 | 43 |
| | 7,950 | 99 |

Source: Table 35, "Age by Race and Sex, for Counties: 1970", U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, _General Population Characteristics_, Final Report, PC (1) B19, Kentucky, p. 142.

The following table shows the age distribution of the respondents:

## TABLE III

## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

(in percentages)

| Age in Years | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Over 80 | 7 | 5.9 |
| 75 - 79 | 21 | 18.3 |
| 70 - 74 | 27 | 22.7 |
| 65 - 69 | 30 | 25.2 |
| 55 - 64 | 19 | 16.5 |
| Under 55 | 11 | 9.2 |
| Missing Observations | 4 | 3.4 |
|  | 119 | 100.0 |

While it cannot be claimed that the persons in each of the age categories is necessarily representative of the age group in the county as a whole (especially since the respondents are generally from the non-rural areas, and do not include men in the same proportion as the sex ratio for Kentucky would indicate), nonetheless, information from those available may provide valuable insights into improving library services to all older age groups. Due to the nature of the study (primarily of those who consider themselves "retired") respondents under the age of 55 would not reflect their numbers in the general county population. Understandably, too, the respondent group would be under-represented in the over-80 age group, since it is likely that relatively fewer in that age group remain active. The percentages of those in the age groups between 65-79 generally follow a similar reduction in percentage of numbers as does the county population.

## Social and Economic Characteristics

How do the social and economic characteristics of the Somerset respondents compare with those of the United States as a whole? The attributes we will consider are marital status, living arrangements, educational attainment, sources and amount of income, poverty level and satisfaction with income.

Marital Status. In the United States as a whole, great differences are found in marital status between men and women in the over 55 age groups. For the year 1960, 79.0% of the men between 55 and 64 years were married and living with their wives; while only 62.9% of the women were married and living with their husbands. Only 6.2% of the men in this age group as compared with 24.5% of the women were widowed. In the over 65 age group, 69.8% of the men as compared to 35.3% of the women were living with their spouses. In 1971, the figures are more disparate--84.2% of the men between the ages of 55 and 64 and only 64.9% of the women in that age group are married and living with their spouses. In the over 65 age group, 70.1% of the men, but only 34.5% of the women live with their spouses. Seventeen and one-tenth percent of the men, but 54.2% of the women over 65 are widowed.*

Of the seventeen men included in the study, sixteen or 94.1% are married, while only one is widowed. Of the women, only 42% are married, 3% are divorced and 48% are widowed. At whatever age, men are more likely to be married than women, and women are a good deal more likely to be widowed.

As a consequence of marital status, more than half of the Somerset respondents live in one or two person families as shown by the following table.

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* Distribution of the Population 55 Years Old and Over by Marital Status, by Age and Sex: 1960, 1971, and 1985, in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 26.

## TABLE IV

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS BY AGE

## SOMERSET RESPONDENTS

(in percent)

(Number=77)

| Age | Type of Living Arrangements | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Alone | Respondent and Spouse | Respondent and Relative | Respondent and Unrelated Person |
| Over 80 | 4.5 | -- | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| 75 - 79 | 10.9 | 4.5 | 1.8 | -- |
| 70 - 74 | 8.2 | 12.7 | 1.8 | -- |
| 65 - 69 | 10.9 | 10.9 | 4.5 | -- |
| 55 - 64 | 5.5 | 8.2 | 2.7 | 0.9 |
| Under 55 | -- | 2.7 | 7.3 | -- |
| | 40.0 | 39.1 | 19.1 | 1.8 |

For comparative purposes, the United States figures for 65 and over are as follows:

## TABLE V

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE POPULATION

## 65 YEARS AND OLDER BY SEX

## MARCH 1971

| Living Arrangements | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| Living alone | 13.9 | 34.8 |
| Spouse present | 70.1 | 34.5 |
| Living with someone else | 15.9 | 30.7 |

Source: Table 21. Living Arrangements of the Population 55 Years Old and Over by Age and Sex: March, 1971, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Series P-23, No. 43, Current Population Reports, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States, Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973, p. 26.

So far as library use is concerned 45.0% of the married persons (N=40) among the respondents are library users, and an additional 32.5% are infrequent users. By comparison, only 23.3% of the widows (N=30) are library users and 20.0% are infrequent users.

Education. One of the critical attributes prerequisite to high library usage is years of education completed. "...education and more education is needed to make a reader...education is overwhelmingly the factor most closely associated with reading."* The statement made in "Baltimore Reaches Out" comes as no surprise as numerous studies have found the statement to be true. This study is no exception. Accordingly, the older age groups are generally at some disadvantage educationally as their median years of education completed is somewhat lower than those in the younger age segments. In the U.S. as a whole, the median years of school completed, for those 65 years and over for the years 1969-70 was 8.7 and only 28.2% were high school graduates. By contrast, 60.4% of persons 25 to 64 years of age are high school graduates.**

For males 65 and over, the median years of school completed was 8.6 and for females 8.8. As a practical matter, this could mean that approximately half of the 65 and over population would be unlikely candidates for library service. It is expected, however, that as the younger age groups with their proportionately greater education move into the retirement age brackets that by 1990 the median years of school completed for those 65 and over will rise from the present 8.7 years to 11.9 years.* This increase in education alone should provide an additional number of potential library users. According to figures from the 1970 Census for the entire United States, 4% of those 65 and over have had no school at all; 53% have completed between 1 and 8 years; 27% have completed 4 years or more of high school, but only 6% have completed 4 years or more of college.**

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* Lowell A. Martin, Baltimore Reaches Out, Library Services to the Disadvantaged, (Baltimore, Md.,

** U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), Table 19, Educational Attainment of the Population 65 Years Old and Over and 25 to 64 Years of Age, for Various Years: 1957 to 1990, p. 25.

The following table indicates the number of years of school completed by the Somerset respondents:

TABLE VI

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

SOMERSET RESPONDENTS

(in percent)

(Number=112)

| | |
|---|---|
| Less than 8 grades | 21.4 |
| 1 - 4 years of high school | 33.0 |
| 1 - 4 years of college | 34.8 |
| 1 - 4 years of graduate school | 10.7 |

Comparison with the national figures indicates that while 57% had completed 8 years or less, only 21.4% of the Somerset respondents had so little education; and that 45.5% had completed high school and had some college or graduate work. Consequently, the Somerset respondents appear to be a rather select group in terms of educational accomplishment.

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* *Op. cit.*, Table 19., Educational Attainment of the Population 65 Years Old and Over and 25 to 64 Years of Age, for Various Years: 1957 to 1990, p. 25.

** *We the American Elderly*, Bureau of the Census, Public Information Office, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 11.

In a cross-tabulation of library use and years of school completed, it can be seen that (as expected) library use increases with increased education, and increases rather markedly for those who have college or graduate level education. Whereas 58.3% of the persons with graduate education are library users, 63.6% of those with 8th grade education or less are non-users.

## TABLE VII

## EDUCATION AND LIBRARY USE

(in percent

| | Non-User | Infrequent User | User | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 - 8 years | 63.6 | 18.2 | 18.2 | 100% |
| 9 - 12 years | 44.0 | 28.0 | 28.0 | 100% |
| 1 - 4 years college | 24.1 | 20.7 | 55.2 | 100% |
| 1 - 4 years graduate school | 8.3 | 33.3 | 58.3 | 100% |

## Sources of Income

Pre-retirement Employment. As a response to a relatively high educational level and the number of years in the labor force, one would expect that pre-retirement employment of the Somerset respondents would likely be predominantly in the white collar category.

The following table delineates the pre-retirement employment of the Somerset respondents:

### TABLE VIII

### PRE-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT* OF SOMERSET RESPONDENTS

(in percent)

(Number=74)

| | |
|---|---|
| Service workers | 4.1 |
| Farm workers | 4.1 |
| Blue collar workers | 10.8 |
| White collar workers | 81.0 |
| | 100.0 |

---

* Briefly stated, service workers (except private household workers such as cooks, housekeepers, maids and servants) include such categories as barbers, firemen, policemen, practical nurses, elevator operators, and hairdressers. Farm workers include farm laborers and farm foremen. Blue collar workers include craftsmen and kindred workers, such as carpenters, electricians, machinists, painters, etc., transport equipment operators, and laborers, except farm. White collar workers include professional, technical and kindred workers including such categories as engineers, social scientists, teachers, draftsmen; managers and administrators, except farm; sales workers, clerical and kindred workers. For a detailed listing of categories included in the four classes, refer to List A, Occupational Classification for Total and White Males..., U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, Subject Reports, Final Report PC-2, 8B, Earnings by Occupation and Education, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 105, IX and X.

Eleven women stated that they had never worked for wages. The median number of years worked on the pre-retirement job was a little over 20 years.

The labor force profile from the 1970 Census for the State of Kentucky for workers in 1965, 65 years of age and over, excluding those who did not report their occupations, is as follows:

### TABLE IX

### MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP IN 1965
### OF WORKERS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE
### WHO REPORTED THEIR OCCUPATIONS
### KENTUCKY, 1970

| | |
|---|---|
| White collar | 48% |
| Blue collar | 26% |
| Farm workers | 9% |
| Service workers | 17% |

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, Subject Reports, Final Report, PC (2) - 7E, Occupation and Residence in 1965, Table 2, Major Occupation Groups in 1970 of those 20 years old and over by Major Occupation in 1965, Age, Race and Spanish Origin in 1970, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 6 and 16.

By using the 65 years and over age segment who were working in 1965, the distribution should take into account the number of years in the labor force to some extent. From a comparison of the two profiles, the Somerset respondents are disproportionately white collar workers. A possible explanation is that white collar workers are more apt to be "joiners" of groups and thus much more likely to be included in a survey sample.

So far as library use is concerned, eight persons in the categories of blue collar, farm workers and service workers answered the question. Only one blue collar and one service worker are library users. In contrast, 45 white collar workers answered the library use question and 51.5% of those are library users and 20.0% are infrequent users.

Present Sources of Income. From what sources does the income of the Somerset respondents arise? As one would expect, the most frequently mentioned source of income is Social Security, which is received by 52.1% of the respondents. Railroad pensions account for income of 24.4% of the respondents. Since one of the groups contacted was an organization composed of retired railroad workers, this would account for the high proportion of pensions in that category. Twenty-one and eight-tenths percent stated they received interest from investments or rents, but only 6.7% said they made withdrawals from savings, selling real estate or cashing bonds. None received Old Age Assistance. Forty and four-tenths percent received some type of pension payments. For more detailed information on source of income, see Table X, "Sources of Income of Respondents".

## TABLE X

## SOURCE OF INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

(Income for year 1972)

| | |
|---|---|
| Social Security benefits | 52.1% |
| Railroad pension* | 24.4% |
| Interest from investments and rent | 21.8% |
| Private or company pension | 12.6% |
| A job | 8.4% |
| State or Federal Government pension | 7.6% |
| Relatives | 6.7% |
| Withdrawals from savings, selling real estate or cashing bonds | 4.2% |
| Any other government assistance at all | .8% |
| Old Age Assistance | None |
| Government payment because of some injury | None |
| | ** |

* One of the groups interviewed was a group of retired railroad employees.

** Does not add to 100.0% since more than one source could be checked.

_Labor Force Participation_. In Pulaski County 17.1% of the men 65 and over but only 6.6% of the females 65 and over are still in the labor force.*

Among the Somerset respondents, approximately one person in eight still received income from some kind of job. None over 70 years of age still worked for wages.

On the national scene, for men 65 and over, labor participation has shown a steady decrease from 45.8 per hundred in 1950 to 25.5 in 1971. The rate for those past 70 was 17.0. None of the men in the Somerset group was still working for wages, although 11.2% of the women were. In all probability, men still working would not be included in the survey. For females, the national rate of participation has remained relatively stable, being 9.7 per hundred in 1950 for those 65 and over and decreasing only slightly to 9.5 for 1971.** It is anticipated that national labor participation rates for men may continue to decline as the result of greater coverage by private pensions and Social Security.

## _Amount of Income, Poverty Level and Satisfaction with Income_

_Income_. In spite of a certain resistance by some people to answering the question on income (even though the categories were relatively broad since detailed information was not necessary for the purposes of this study), only 31 people failed to answer, or approximately 1 out of 4. The following table shows the percentage distribution of income of the respondents:

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* U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, _Characteristics of the Population_, Vol. 1, Part 19, Kentucky, Table 21, Employment Characteristics for Counties: 1970 (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), pp. 414-423.

** Table 22. Labor Force Participation Rates for the Population 55 Years and Over, By Age, Sex and Race for Various Years: 1950 to 1980, U.S. Bureau of the Census, _Current Population Reports_, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 28.

## TABLE XI

## INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

(in percentage of total respondents)

| Amount Per Month | Percent |
|---|---|
| Less than $200 | 18.5 |
| Over $200 but less than $500 | 32.8 |
| Over $500 but less than $750 | 10.9 |
| Over $750 but less than $1,000 | 6.7 |
| Over $1,000 | 5.0 |
| Failed to answer | 26.0 |

When marital status is taken into account, the following figures result:

## TABLE XII

## MARITAL STATUS AND INCOME OF RESPONDENTS PER MONTH

(in percentages)

| Marital Status | Income Per Month | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Less than $200 | Over $200 but less than $500 | Over $500 but less than $750 | Over $750 but less than $1000 | Over $1000 |
| Married (N=47) | 8.5 | 48.9 | 12.8 | 17.0 | 12.8 |
| Widowed (N=32) | 50.0 | 37.5 | 12.5 | -- | -- |
| Never married (N=6) | 16.7 | 50.0 | 33.3 | -- | -- |
| Divorced (N=3) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Poverty Level. In order to assess the adequacy of the above figures in terms of level of living, a comparison of those figures with the "Retired Couple Budget" put out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics might be useful. The retired couple budget is based not on poverty level (established each year from the Current Population Survey of annual income for farm and non-farm families of varying sizes by a rather complicated formula), but on a "modest but adequate" standard of living. In 1969, the poverty level for a person aged 65 or over living alone or with non-relatives averaged $1,749 and for a couple with head 65 or over, it averaged $2,194.* The "modest but adequate" retired couple's budget includes a detailed list of items such as food, housing, transportation, clothing and personal care, medical care, personal income taxes and "other" items. The budget also assumes some existing inventory of clothing, furniture and appliances.

The budgetary levels established, as of the spring of 1970, are as follows:

| Budget Level** | Single Person 65+ | Couple 65+ |
|---|---|---|
| Lower | $1,555 | $2,832 |
| Intermediate | 2,297 | 4,185 |
| Higher | 3,177 | 5,786 |

A recent revision of budget levels for autumn 1972 shows the following figures for the urban retired couple:

| Budget Level | Total |
|---|---|
| Lower | $3,442 |
| Intermediate | 4,967 |
| Higher | 7,689 |

The increases are calculated by using changes in the consumer price index and show increases over the 1971 budget of 3.7% for the lower level, 4.0% for the intermediate and 3.3% for the higher level.***

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* Administration on Aging, Facts and Figures on Older Americans, No. 1, "Measuring Adequacy of Income", (Washington, D.C., DHEW, 1972), p. 3.

** Ibid., p. 6.

*** From Statistical Memo #26, dated October 5, 1973, to AOA Professional Staff from Blanch S. Williams.

By comparing the income of the total group of respondents with the 1970 budgetary levels, it can be seen that while the respondents are not the most impoverished of persons, that 18.5% have less than $2,400 per year income. This would fall roughly within the lower budget levels for couples. Thirty-two and eight-tenths percent (32.8%) of the respondents have less than $6,000 per year income, which would fall generally within the higher budgetary levels for couples. When marital status is taken into account, half of the widowed have less than $2,400 per year, which would place them slightly above the intermediate budgetary figures for 1970. Of the married couples 48.9% have less than $6,000 per year which would place them slightly above the higher budget levels for 1970, but somewhat below the higher budgetary level revised as of 1972. Among the Somerset respondents, it is worthy to note that no widowed or never married persons have yearly incomes in excess of $9,000; while 29.8% of the married persons have over $9,000 per year and in a few cases have incomes in excess of $12,000.

One should be aware also that the budgetary figures above do not take into account either the length of time a person has been retired or the amount of assets available at retirement. How much are such retirement assets likely to be? A recently begun (1969) ten-year longitudinal study by the Social Security Administration gathered information on pre-retirement assets from 11,153 men aged 58-63, regardless of marital status, and women of the same ages who were not, when selected, living with a spouse, the sample being drawn from all 50 States. Married women were not included since "for most married women of this generation 'retirement' has little meaning apart from their husband's stopping work".* Half of all the reporting non-married units had a total net worth (assets less debt) of less than $4,500. When home equity was excluded, the amount dropped below $900. With married men, half had more than $16,000 in net worth and more than $4,600 other than in home equity.**

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* Lola M. Irelan, Retirement History Study, Report No. 1, (Washington, D.C., Social Security Administration, 1973), p. 6.

** Sally R. Sherman, "Assets on the Threshold of Retirement", Social Security Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 8, (August, 1973), p. 14.

Sixty-five is generally conceded as the usual retirement age although women may retire at age 62. How long, in general, should assets and post-retirement income be expected to last? In Kentucky (1968) the average remaining years of life was 12.9 for males and 16.4 years for females. If a woman retires at 62 instead of 65, she might spend 19.4 years "retired".* A woman's chances of surviving to older ages are greater than a man's. Once having reached age 65 a man has only 200 chances in 1,000 of reaching age 85 while a woman has 352 -- about one and one-half times as much.** Disproportionate budgetary stress may result for women since their income either as wage earners or as pensioners through survivorship is usually smaller.

Thus, considering the expenditure only of "modest but adequate" budgets plus the relatively long life expectancy of persons after retirement, it is obvious that such assets could not long sustain either an individual or a couple in the absence of other sources of income.

Satisfaction with Income. Interestingly enough, 57.1% of the respondents stated that they were satisfied with their income. Since 26% failed to answer the question, and only 9.2% said they didn't know whether they were satisfied or not, only 13.4% voiced dissatisfaction with their income.

On the assumption that the older a person is, the longer he has been retired, let us see whether or not greater dissatisfaction with income occurs at the older ages. In every age group, more persons are satisfied with their income than are dissatisfied. The greatest satisfaction with one's income, as one might surmise, occurs in those age groups more recently retired, i.e., 85.7% of those in the 65-69 age group are satisfied with their income; while only 46.2% are satisfied in the 70-75 age group. In the 75-79 age group, only 23.1% state they are dissatisfied, while 30.8% said they don't know whether they are satisfied or not.

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* "Regional Variations in Longevity at Ages 65 and Older", Metropolitan Life Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 54, (September, 1973), p. 11.

** Ibid.

## Social Contacts and Activities

One of the goals set forth by the 1971 White House Conference on Aging was to "achieve and maintain positive and well integrated social relations within the family and community."* It is assumed that if persons maintain such social relations their continued interest in various areas would be a likely stimulus to the use of the library. Conversely, high alienation would likely militate against library use. In an effort to measure some areas of "life space" or "...that network of social interactions unique to a particular individual"**, questions were asked regarding the amount of leisure time available, voting behavior, the number of meetings attended, leisure activities and interests, and various facets of alienation.

Spare Time. Even after retirement some people have no "spare time". Some care for invalided mates, or other relatives for whom they are responsible. Some are involved in a number of activities and have no spare time (in their view) for additional activities. Some oldsters have more spare time than they know what to do with. How much spare time do the Somerset respondents feel that they have? Nine percent (9%) of those who answered (89 persons) said they had no spare time at all and an additional 3.4% said they had less than one hour per day to spend as they wished. Interestingly enough, 48.7% said they had between 1 and 6 hours a day spare time and 16.8% said they had over 6 hours of spare time. Obviously, persons in this group do have time to devote to additional activities if they find the activities of sufficient interest.

Voting Behavior. One means of continuing participation in community life is that of voting. One of the explanations for continued interest in political matters after retirement is that since certain role losses are societally rather than individually imposed, remaining roles may become more important. A person is not, after all, automatically disenfranchised at a particular older age.

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* Retirement Roles and Activities, White House Conference on Aging, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, n.d.), p. 11.

** Robert C. Atchley, The Social Forces in Later Life, (Belmont, California, Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1972), p. 340.

Concern has been voiced by librarians that the elderly population might constitute a voting bloc. Such a voting bloc could exist as a part of a subculture of aging, a concept discussed by sociologist Arnold Rose* in which he sets forth criteria tending to show that the elderly in the population could be considered a subculture. Requisites for such a subculture are that (1) members have a positive affinity for each other on some basis and (2) the members are excluded from interaction with other groups to some significant extent. Evidence of the awareness of this concept may be found in Eleanor Phinney's article on "Library and the Aging"** in which she mentions the "danger in old people's organizing as an interest bloc, and of the impediment to progressive action embodied in a large voting group of ultra-conservative tendencies,...."

Atchley*** feels that such a subculture as defined by Rose probably does not exist. First, older people belong to numerous interest groups, not necessarily based on age. Secondly, older persons generally remain in the community and house they lived in before retirement. For example, for 1970-71, only 5.4% of the population 65 to 74 moved to a different house in the same county and only 2.9% moved to a different county. For those 75 and over only 6.8% moved to a different county.**** Consequently, the aged are dispersed throughout the population rather than being physically isolated in the sense that they are non-age-segregated as they might be in retirement villages, or apartment complexes exclusively for the retired. Third, because of interaction with their children, they do have meaningful contacts across generational lines. In other words, age _per se_ does not act as a consolidating factor. Thus, if such a subculture does not exist, it would be more difficult for a strong voting bloc to materialize.

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* Arnold M. Rose and Warren A. Peterson, _Older People and Their Social World: The Subculture of the Aging_, (Philadelphia, Pa., F.A. Davis Co., 1965), p. 14.

** _Library Journal_, 78 (1953), pp. 1875-79.

*** _Op. cit._, Atchley.

**** U.S. Bureau of the Census, _Current Population Reports_, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 13.

That persons in older age groups do, in fact, vote in rather remarkable numbers, is borne out by national and regional figures as well as by the voting behavior of the respondents in the age groups contacted in Somerset. The following table shows the percent voting, 55 years of age and older for all races in the United States and in the Southern Region of which Kentucky is a part.

### TABLE XIII

### REPORTED VOTER PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS 55 AND OVER, ALL RACES BY SEX AND AGE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOUTHERN REGION, NOVEMBER, 1972

| | Percent Voting | |
|---|---|---|
| | United States | Southern Region |
| Both sexes, all ages | 63.0 | 55.4 |
| 55 to 64 years | 70.7 | 62.2 |
| 65 to 74 years | 68.1 | 60.1 |
| 75 years and over | 55.6 | 46.4 |
| Male | | |
| 55 yo 64 years | 72.4 | 65.8 |
| 65 to 74 years | 73.2 | 65.7 |
| 75 years and over | 75.0 | 59.1 |
| Female | | |
| 55 to 64 years | 69.2 | 59.1 |
| 65 to 74 years | 64.3 | 55.9 |
| 75 years and over | 49.1 | 38.3 |

Source: Table 1. Reported Voter Participation and Registration of Persons of Voting age, by Race, Spanish Origin, Sex and Age, for the United States and Regions, November 1972, in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 253, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November, 1972", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), pp. 7-27.

As shown by Table XIII, voting participation in the Southern Region drops off fairly sharply at age 75 and over, especially among females. Figures show that for both sexes and for females in both the United States and the Southern Region, the most active voting period occurs between 45 and 54 years of age. For males in the United States, interestingly enough, ages 75 and over showed that 75.0% voted, which was the highest percent of participation. In the Southern Region, males in the 55-64 age category voted slightly more frequently than those in the 45-54 age category (65.8% as compared to 65.2%).

So far as the Somerset respondents are concerned, 83.2% of the total of 119 stated that they voted in the last national election (November, 1972). Since 16 of the respondents failed to answer the voting question, the following voting by age cross-tabulation shows even higher percentages.

TABLE XIV

PERCENTAGE OF SOMERSET RESPONDENTS VOTING

IN 1972 NATIONAL ELECTION, BY AGE

(Number=103)

| Age | Percent Voting |
|---|---|
| 55 to 64 years | 87.5 |
| 65 to 69 years | 89.7 |
| 70 to 74 years | 100.0 |
| 75 to 79 years | 89.5 |
| Over 80 years | 100.0 |

The above table appears to show a rather remarkable participation especially in the 70 to 74 year (N=23) and the over 80 year (N=5) categories in which all respondents stated they voted. While some may have stated that they voted because they thought they should have, it is possible that the more politically active and interested tend to participate in more social activities and would be more likely to be included in such a survey as this.

While Somerset has no public transportation system (one was operative about a year ago but was recently abandoned), most Somerset respondents have means to get to the polls to vote--71.4% say they own their own cars; 58.8% say when they want to go some place they drive themselves there and an additional 22.7% say they have someone else drive them where they want to go.

It is interesting to note that while causality is not necessarily implied, 81.5% have transportation available and 83.2% of the total said they voted.

While reasons for not voting were not asked of the Somerset respondents, it is obvious that active dislike of politics, lack of interest in politics or the inability to get to the polls could be considered strong reasons for not voting. The following table shows reasons for not voting in the United States for ages 55 and over:

TABLE XV

REPORTED REASON NOT VOTING OF PERSONS WHO REPORTED THAT THEY WERE REGISTERED BUT DID NOT VOTE, BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE FOR THE UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER, 1972

(Civilian non-institutional population)

| Age | Reasons for not Voting | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| All Races | Not Interested | Dislike Politics | Unable to go to Polls |
| Both Sexes | | | |
| 55 - 64 years | 17.9 | 13.1 | 35.2 |
| 65 years and over | 8.5 | 7.8 | 56.3 |
| Male | | | |
| 55 - 64 years | 14.7 | 13.4 | 33.5 |
| 65 years and over | 10.7 | 10.3 | 51.6 |
| Female | | | |
| 55 - 64 years | 14.6 | 10.8 | 40.2 |
| 65 years and over | 7.2 | 6.2 | 59.3 |

Source: Table 18, Reported Reason Not Voting of Persons Who Reported That They Were Registered But Did Not Vote, By Age, Sex, and Race for the United States, November, 1972. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 253, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November, 1972", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 140.

The most acute reason for not voting given for the 65 and over age group as shown in Table XV is the inability to go to the polls. While in some cases this might be a rationalization for not voting, it nonetheless appears to be a real problem for people who might not, from an economic point of view, be able to afford transportation, or who, because of infirmity, are no longer able to drive.

As stated above, the Somerset respondents included in this survey seem amply supplied with means of getting to the polls, which may at least partially explain their high participation in voting activity.

Long and Lucioli suggest that "It is vital that we should not be handicapped in our progress in these fields /social and economic adjustment/ by having to face an old age pressure group inherently opposed to innovation and concerned only with its own security and comfort."* The fear that the older age segment is concerned "only with its own security and comfort" is not borne out by a recent survey conducted by the American Association of Retired Persons.** Information on the felt needs of older persons was received from almost 70,000 members in late 1972. The major areas of concern were (1) inflation, (2) the high crime rate, (3) high taxes, (4) drug use and (5) decline in religious and moral values. None of these are exclusively concerns of the aged and are concerns reflected in national surveys which include all age groups. "Inadequate attention to the problems of the retired" was ranked eighth.

It would seem, therefore, fairly unlikely either that the elderly would form a voting bloc which would have influence disproportionate to the size of the aging segment or that if such strength existed that it would be used to promote programs or legislation "concerned only with its own security and comfort."

Meetings. For most of the respondents, meetings of various kinds provide considerable community contact. Eighty-eight and seven-tenths percent had attended one or more meetings during the previous month. Thirty-five and eight-tenths percent attended between four and six meetings, and almost a quarter of the respondents (24.5%)

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* Fern Long and Clara Lucioli, "The Live Long and Like it Club: A Project in Adult Education for Older People". Wilson Library Bulletin, 23, (Dec., 1948).

** James A. Peterson, "Report on You", Modern Maturity, Vol. 16, No. 4, (August-September, 1973), pp. 64-65.

attended between seven and ten meetings the previous month. About 1 in 9 (11.3%) attended more than ten meetings during the month and the same percentage did not attend any meetings during the previous month. Unless relevance of materials and services of the library can be established in connection with the subject matter of some of the meetings, competition for the time of persons involved in several meetings may not be successful. It seems easier to continue an activity already begun than to start a new one.

*Leisure Activities*. Greater numbers of activities should provide a wider base of interest in the materials and services a library has to offer. Respondents were asked to check the activities they had participated in during the last year not only to determine the extent of participation, but to indicate areas of interest upon which to build programs. The following table indicates those activities given the first three ranks among the activities listed.

TABLE XVI

ACTIVITIES RANKED 1, 2 OR 3 FOR SOMERSET GROUPS

|  | Groups |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Activities | A | B | C | D | E | F |
| Church and volunteer work | 1 | 2 | * | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Take a vacation trip | 2 | 3(t) | * | 2(t) | 3(t) |  |
| Yard work or gardening | 3(t) | 1 | * | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Play cards and games | 3(t) |  | * |  | 3(t) |  |
| Sewing |  |  | * | 2(t) | 3(t) | 1 |
| Drive for pleasure |  | 3(t) | * |  |  |  |

Group A = 27 women
Group B = 9 men, 15 women
Group C = 4 women, 1 man
Group D = 5 men, 8 women
Group E = 12 women
Group F = 5 men, 30 women

* Number in group too small to compute.

Since yard work and gardening received two first place ranks, two second place ranks and one third, it would appear to be the most popular activity. Church and volunteer work was listed within the first three ranks in every group and would rank overall as the second most popular activity. Interpretation of the kinds of activities which are encompassed in this category are somewhat difficult and the item could have provided more information if it had been phrased in a more specific way.

The persons in Group A participated in an average of 6.2 activities per person during the last year.

The most frequently mentioned activity was church and volunteer work--mentioned by 74.1%. Taking a vacation (76.6%), yard work (59.3%), and playing cards and games (59.3%) were the next most frequently mentioned. For a more detailed description, see Table XVII, which follows.

### TABLE XVII

### SELECTED ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR

(In percent)

N=27 females

| Activities | Percent |
|---|---|
| Church and/or volunteer work | 74.1 |
| Take a vacation trip | 66.6 |
| Yard work or gardening | 59.3 |
| Play cards or games | 59.3 |
| Sewing | 55.6 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 55.6 |
| Attend plays or concerts | 51.9 |
| Attend sporting events | 33.3 |
| Spend time at library | 33.3 |
| Listen to records | 33.3 |
| Attend movies | 22.2 |

Group B, a group of retired railroad workers and their wives and widows, averaged three activities per person. For men, the most frequently mentioned activity was yard work and for the women, sewing and church and volunteer work. For a more detailed description of activities, see Table XVIII.

### TABLE XVIII

### SELECTED ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR

(In percent)

Group B

N=27 9 male
17 female
1 failed to answer

| Activities | Percent |
|---|---|
| Yard work or gardening | 48.1 |
| Church and volunteer work | 44.4 |
| Take a vacation | 40.7 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 40.7 |
| Sewing | 37.0 |
| Listen to records | 22.2 |

Group C consisted on only five persons--consequently, percentages were not computed.

At a senior citizens' club, Group D, yard work and gardening were listed by 84.6% of the respondents, taking a vacation and sewing were each listed by 53.8% and church and volunteer work was listed by 46.2%. The average number of activities was 4.7. For additional detail, see Table XIX, which follows.

## TABLE XIX

## SELECTED ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR

(In percent)

Group D

N = 13

| Activities | Percent |
|---|---|
| Yard work or gardening | 84.6 |
| Take a vacation trip | 53.8 |
| Sewing | 53.8 |
| Church or volunteer work | 46.2 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 38.5 |
| Listen to records | 38.5 |

Group E, a literary club, averaged 4.8 activities per person. The most frequently mentioned activities were church and volunteer work, 83.3%, yard work and gardening, 66.6%. Taking a vacation, sewing and playing cards and games were mentioned by 50% of the women. For additional activities, see Table XX, which follows:

## TABLE XX

## SELECTED ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR

(In percent)

Group E

N = 12, all female

| Activities | Percent |
|---|---|
| Church or volunteer work | 83.3 |
| Yard work or gardening | 66.6 |
| Sewing | 50.0 |
| Play cards or games | 50.0 |
| Take a vacation trip | 50.0 |
| Movies | 33.3 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 33.3 |
| Attend plays or concerts | 33.3 |
| Listen to records | 33.3 |

Two persons mentioned spending time at the library; playing a musical instrument, attending a sporting event, and working puzzles were each mentioned once.

The average number of activities participated in by members of Group F was 5.2. Most frequently mentioned activity was sewing, mentioned by 65.7% followed closely by yard work, mentioned by 62.9%. Church and volunteer work was mentioned by over half the respondents. The high interest in sewing may be explained by the high percentage of women in the group. See table XXI for more details.

### TABLE XXI

### SELECTED ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR

(In percent)

Group F

N = 35 5 male
30 female

| Activities | Percent |
|---|---|
| Sewing | 65.7 |
| Yard work or gardening | 62.9 |
| Church or volunteer work | 57.1 |
| Take a vacation trip | 51.4 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 45.7 |
| Attend plays or concerts | 34.3 |
| Listen to records | 31.4 |
| Spend time at library | 28.6 |
| Attend sporting events | 14.3 |
| Bingo | 11.4 |

Playing a musical instrument and attending movies was checked three times, working puzzles and being a member of a singing group were mentioned twice each, and participating in sports was mentioned once.

When Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient* is used to compare the average number of activities of the various groups with the percent of persons in the groups who had visited the library during the last six months, the coefficient is .90 which shows a strong positive association. Refer to Table XXII, which follows:

TABLE XXII

AVERAGE NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES

AND LIBRARY USE

| Group | Rank | Average Number of Activities | Rank | Percent Who Visited Library During Last Six Months |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | (1) | 6.2 | (1) | 74% |
| B | (5) | 3 | (5) | 11% |
| C | | * | | * |
| D | (4) | 4.7 | (4) | 23% |
| E | (3) | 4.8 | (2) | 58% |
| F | (2) | 5.2 | (3) | 51% |

* Categories too small for computation

Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient or rho$^x$=.90. This coefficient should be interpreted with extreme caution, due to the small number of cases.

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* For an explanation of Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient, see Abraham N. Franzblau, A Primer of Statistics, (New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1958), pp. 123-24.

Use of Radio and TV. Two passive activities which provide formidable competition for library use are television viewing and listening to the radio. It is much easier to snap on the TV or radio than to read a book or bestir oneself to the library. Over three quarters (77.3%) of the respondents watch TV and 80.7% say they listen to the radio. A little over half (51.3%) of those who watch TV say they spend between one and five hours a day watching, and three persons (2.5%) say they spend in excess of six hours a day.

What are the main reasons people give for watching? "A National Inventory of Television Viewing Behavior" found that 32% watched for entertainment, 26% for relaxation and 18% admitted they watched only to "kill time".* Another study** found that "few turn on their sets for educational purposes" and that "only 10% mentioned information-seeking as a reason for watching TV". A study on news viewing found that the majority of the population (52% of the men and 54% of the women) reported they had not seen a national news program during the two-week period (Oct.-Nov., 1969) of the study.*** However, "both male and female regular news viewers are drawn disproportionately from older people in our society, regardless of their educational level or amount of overall viewing time."****

Alienation. If activities would seem to encourage library use, it also seems plausible that the opposite or societal alienation would be likely to discourage library use. In an effort to determine whether or not this is true of the respondents in Somerset, a five-item alienation scale was included in the questionnaire. Five of the six items included in Middleton's Alienation

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* Leonard A. LaScioto, Television in Day-to-Day Life: Patterns of Use, Vol. IV (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, n.d.), p. 60.

** John P. Robinson, "Toward Defining the Function of Television", Ibid., p. 580.

*** Harold Israel and John P. Robinson, "Demographic Characteristics of Viewers of Television Violence and News Programs", Television in Day-to-Day Life: Patterns of Use, Vol. IV, (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, n.d.), p. 102.

**** Ibid., p. 107.

Scale* were used. The statement "I don't really enjoy most of the work that I do, but I feel that I must do it in order to have other things that I need and want", was excluded since this study deals with retired persons and was not applicable. Remaining items included statements intended to measure powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, cultural estrangement and social estrangement.**

The questions were presented in an agree-disagree format. "Positive" answers were those in which the respondents disagreed with the statements. The form of the statements posed particular problems for those of lower educational attainment since in order to make a "positive" response, it was necessary to "disagree" with a negative statement. Consequently, there was a relatively high rate of non-response to these items.

When asked to respond to the statement "In order to get ahead in the world, you are almost forced to do some things which are not right", which is intended to measure normlessness, 47.9% disagreed, while only 25.2% agreed.

To the statement on cultural estrangement, i.e., "I am not much interested in the TV programs, movies, or magazines that most people seem to like", 38.7% agreed with the statement and only 35.3% disagreed, while 26.1% failed to answer. Since 77.3% of the respondents said they watch TV and a little over half say they watch between one and five hours a day, and 74.8% say they read magazines, 38.7% seems a rather high percentage of persons who state that "they are not much interested in TV programs..., and magazines most people seem to like". The objection could possibly have been aimed at movies rather than TV and magazines due to the wording of the question.

Forty-two and nine-tenths percent disagreed with the statement "There is not much that I can do about most of the important problems that we face today", while 30.0% agreed. Voting could be considered a response to powerlessness--unless the voters feel that the vote really has no effect. Since such a high percentage of Somerset respondents vote, 30.0% who feel "powerless" seems a rather high figure.

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* R. Middleton, "Alienation, Race and Education", American Sociological Review, 28 (1963), pp. 973-77, as described in Measures of Social Psychological Attitudes, by John P. Robinson and Phillip R. Shaver, (Ann Arbor, Michigan, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, August, 1969).

** For wording of these items, see Question 19, page 4, REV/4 of the Questionnaire, Appendix A.

To the statement "Things have become so complicated in the world today that I really don't understand what is going on", 32.8% agreed that the world is too complicated, while 40.2% disagreed. Twenty-six and nine-tenths percent failed to answer.

While the four above statements were presented in such a way that understanding might be difficult, the fifth item intended to measure social estrangement should have been easily understood even by those of low education. "I often feel lonely" is a simple, straightforward statement. Much resistance to answering this particular question was in evidence, as shown by the high non-answering percentage of 39.5%. However, only 20.2% agreed with the statement, while 40.3% disagreed that they often felt lonely. When a group of 2,543 adults were asked to state their fears, less than one in five said they feared death, but 16% of all women and 11% of the men said they feared loneliness.* There is no way of determining whether those who failed to answer felt lonely often, but did not want to admit it. A number of husband-wife combinations were in attendance and it is possible if one admitted to being lonely, that it might reflect unfavorably on the other partner. Since husband and wife usually sat together and thus could see how the other answered, some answers might have been adjusted accordingly.

Total scores on all five items ranged from 0 for a person who did not disagree with any of the five statements to 5 for a person who disagreed with each of the five statements. Persons with scores of 0, 1 and 2 were considered to be more alienated than those who had scores of 3, 4 or 5. Only 12.2% of the respondents disagreed with all five statements, 7.0% disagreed with all but one statement, and 13.9% disagreed with three. Consequently, 33% were not considered to be highly alienated. Some of those remaining who had scores from 0 to 2 or alienated may be accounted for by virtue of non-answering since the items were scored in the positive direction.

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* George H. Gallup, The Gallup Poll, Public Opinion, 1935-71, Vol. 3, 1959-71, (New York: Random House, 1972).

AGE AND ALIENATION SCORE

| Age | Percent of Respondents | High Alienation (Scores 0,1,2) | Low Alienation (Scores 3,4,5) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 55 | 9.6 | 45.5 | 54.5 |
| 55 - 64 | 16.5 | 73.7 | 26.3 |
| 65 - 69 | 26.1 | 60.0 | 40.0 |
| 70 - 74 | 23.5 | 70.4 | 29.6 |
| 75 - 79 | 18.3 | 71.4 | 28.6 |
| Over 80 | 6.1 | 85.7 | 14.3 |

One person over 80 disagreed with all five statements. Generally, the greater the age, the greater proportion of scores indicated high alienation (with the exception of the 55-64 age group, which showed more alienation than the older age groups). Over twice as many positive answers were given by library users than were given by non-users.

## Life Satisfaction

Four areas of satisfaction were explored--happiness, satisfaction with housing, satisfaction with income and attitude toward retirement.

Happiness. When asked the question, "In general, how happy would you say you are?", 54.6% of the respondents said they were very happy and 37.0% said they were fairly happy. Compared to a survey made in January, 1971, by the Gallup Poll, in which 38% of the adults fifty years old and older, said they were very happy and 50% said they were fairly happy,* the respondents were somewhat happier than the broader Gallup sample.

Housing Satisfaction. When asked whethery they were satisfied with their housing arrangements, 80.7% of the Somerset respondents indicated satisfaction, compared with only 74% of a national adult sample of 1,505 made in

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* Gallup Poll, January 14, 1971, p. 2280.

September, 1973, by the Roper Public Opinion Research Center.* Only 5.9% of the Somerset respondents said they were dissatisfied compared to 23% of the national sample. In a report on an American Association of Retired Persons membership of 70,000 older persons, 89% of the respondents were satisfied with their housing arrangements. Nonetheless, in terms of numbers, the survey estimates that a quarter of a million older Americans are unhappy over their housing.**

Attitude to Retirement. Only one of the Somerset respondents stated that retirement was worse than expected. Twenty-two and seven-tenths percent said retirement was about the same as they expected and 36.1% said retirement was better than expected. It might be well to keep in mind, however, that these people are fairly healthy (58.0% say they have good or excellent health) and relatively unrestricted as to activity (69.8% say they either are not limited in any or not limited in most of their activities). When the Roper Public Opinion Research Center asked a national sample of adults what they considered to be the best stage of life, 24% named young adulthood, 36% named middle age and 20% named retirement.***

## Library Use

Barriers to Library Use by Older Persons. While open stacks may be a boon to students who like to browse, this increasing accessibility to books may prove a distinct disadvantage to older persons. Physical handicaps, building barriers and felt personal inadequacies may combine to render library use just too demanding in terms of available energy for the rewards one might gain.

## Physical Handicaps

Vision. Since eye sufficiency has such direct bearing on the efficient use of the library, the questionnaire sought to establish possible shortcomings in eye care, and the extent of certain types of eye disease. This information might also be used to detect a number of persons who might be eligible to receive "talking books" from the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Frankfort, Kentucky. Many persons with marginal handicaps (those not legally considered "blind") are not aware that this service may be available to them. Certain other aspects of "seeing" that might have a bearing on the "comfortable" use of the library are also included.

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* Current Opinion, Vol. 2, Issue 1, (January, 1974), p. 9.

** James A. Peterson, "Report on You", Modern Maturity, Aug.-Sept., 1973, pp. 64-5.

*** Current Opinion, Vol. 1, No. 6, (June, 1973), p. 59.

Ophthamologists generally recommend that eyes and eyeglasses be checked at least every two years. Ninety-four and one-tenth percent said they wear glasses when they read. Sixty-eight percent of the respondents said their eyes had been checked either by a doctor or at a clinic during the preceding two years; 65.5% by a doctor and 2.5% at a clinic. Consequently, almost 3 out of every 10 persons who wear glasses may be wearing glasses that no longer provide adequate correction. It is also possible that some who wear glasses do not wear prescription glasses--sometimes people just buy a pair of glasses at the dime store that helps them see a little better than they did before.

In a pilot program for vision screening in Dallas, Texas, 960 retired persons aged 40 to 103 were tested.* Of the total participants in the program, 32% had not had a vision examination for three years or more and 3.5% had never had one. Forty-one percent were referred to local vision care specialists for further diagnosis; 5.1% for suspected glaucoma, 5.2% for cataract evaluation and 1.5% for other health problems detected through the eyes.

Four common causes of blindness (and if not blindness, at least reduced vision) in people over 65 are macular degeneration, cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy.** Macular degeneration is a fairly well pronounced opacity of the cornea, apparent as a grey spot. This condition affects 20% of the older population, and the average age of occurrence is 78. Cataracts, or clouding of the lens of the eye, affects about 17% of the older population and its average age of occurrence is 72. Cataracts cause a general decrease in vision as well as a decrease in the amount of light reaching the eye and results in an excessive glare in sunlight. Glaucoma affects about 13% of the older population, and its average age of occurrence is 73 years. Glaucoma or elevated pressure within the eye, greatly affects peripheral vision. Eyedrops used to alleviate the condition constrict the pupil of the eye and thus reduces the amount of light getting into the eye. Diabetic retinopathy is a non-inflammatory disease of the retina as a result of a diabetic condition. This condition affects about 12% of the older population and its average age of occurrence is 60 years.

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* Aging, No. 226, August 1973, HEW, Office of Human Development, Administration on Aging, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 16.

** Leslie S. Libow, "Older People's Medical and Physiological Characteristics: Some Implications for Transportation", published in Transportation and Aging, Selected Issues, based on proceedings on the Interdisciplinary Workshop on Transportation and Aging, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1970), p. 14.

It is estimated that the number of blind people in the United States is about 380,000 or 19 per thousand. Legal blindness is defined as vision of 20/200 or less in the best eye and a visual field of 20 degrees or less. This means a person could read the big "E" on the eye chart at 20 feet, or be able to see a person's nose and ear at the same time. Such restricted vision would provide poor or mediocre ability to walk about. Assuming that four or five times the number of legally blind people have some visual impairment, it is possible that about 1.9 million older people, or 10 percent of the total elderly population might have significant vision problems. A person whose corrected vision is 20/50 or better rarely has much problem either in outside life or reading. If an individual has 20/70 vision and an adequate field, he can get around pretty well. Often the person with only 20/200 vision can be enabled to read with magnification and a good light close to the reading material.*

In the question on eye disease included in the questionnaire, only 4.2% stated they had cataract, a somewhat lesser figure than that cited by Libow. This is to be expected since it is likely that persons severely afflicted would be somewhat limited as to activities. Additionally, the respondent group includes a fairly large proportion of persons younger in age than the average age of occurrence of the various diseases mentioned.

Since cataracts cause a direct loss of light entering the eye and glaucoma by means of the medication for its alleviation, causes loss of light reaching the eye both of these conditions could have a direct affect on the comfortable use of the library. After all, libraries are lighted for persons with "normal" vision. Generally speaking, older people require more light to see as well as younger persons. At age 45, it is estimated that illumination will have to be increased by 50 percent to reach optimum conditions of sharpness as compared with the light requirements of a 20 year old. By the late 50's a 100% increase in brightness is required and by age 80, an increase of three and a third times is necessary. Consequently, it is very likely that levels of lighting in most libraries is not sufficient for comfortable reading for persons 45 and older.* A possible solution might be a special reading area in which light intensities are increased. Merely increasing the amount of light is not the whole solution, however, as it must be attained without an increased amount of glare. Glare can distort or mute the outlines of objects thus increasing the difficulty of seeing.

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* Don M. Gordon, "Eye Problems of the Aged", in Working With Older People, Clinical Aspects of Aging, Vol. IV, (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, Public Health Service, 1971), p. 28.

While I have been unable to find any figures showing the numbers and ages of persons wearing bi-focals, there surely must be substantial numbers in the over 45 age group. Bi-focals pose a particularly awkward problem in "reading shelves". Generally, objects are in focus in an area between a few inches from the nose to a distance approximately arm's length. So far as acuity of vision is concerned, the area immediately beyond an arm's length may constitute a pretty fuzzy area. Objects generally return to focus at about 5 or 6 feet. Reading book titles and catalog numbers either must be done with one's nose almost on the back of the book (sometimes a difficult maneuver when the books are either at the top or bottom of the stack areas) or one must back up far enough to get in focus with the "distance" part of the glasses. This is sometimes impossible due to the width of the stack aisles. While alleviation of this particular difficulty may not be possible, it is one other aspect which makes open-stack library use for some people rather uncomfortable.

Hearing. Hearing difficulties may also create a barrier to library use. Loss of hearing can mean loss of contact with life and may induce depression and withdrawal. About 30% of the persons in the 65-79 year age group suffer from some degree of hearing impairment. Unfortunately, advancing age produces a marked degree of hearing impairment--in fact, for ages 65-79 the rate of impairment is 40 times greater than for those 18-24 years of age.*

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* From an unpublished paper arising from the Housing Group Participants at the White House Conference, by Jack Billingsley, p. 1.

If a person needs an explanation for finding materials, the answer may not be loud enough or the words may run together or be distorted so as not to be understandable. This need for greater volume may be especially embarrassing to persons who feel they must either maintain absolute silence or not speak above a whisper in the library. While a hearing aid is definitely helpful, mere increase in volume may not solve the problem. Many whose hearing could be improved by a well fitted hearing aid do not take advantage of this correction since it is estimated that among those 45 years and over with hearing loss in both ears, only one person in five uses a hearing aid.**

Lipreading may also provide additional understanding. Nonetheless, in speechreading certain vocal sounds are not visible on the lips so a person reading lips receives a series of intermittent clues (through such "visible" sounds as (p), (b), (m), (f), and (v)), together with facial expressions and bodily gestures to provide a meaningful interpretation. Have _you_ ever tried to follow the conversation on television when the sound is turned off? It is a little like reading shorthand--a lot of material must be filled in. The same problems arise in providing audio-visual materials for this age segment--volume must be increased, speed of presentation decreased if possible and extraneous noises and distractions reduced to a minimum.

_Arthritis and Orthopedic Defects_. According to statistics from the National Health Center, almost 80% of the 65-79 year age group are afflicted with some degree of osteoarthritis, a degenerative joint disease which most often affects the hands and feet. In the 65 to 79 year age group, 50.3% of the men and 44.9% of the women in the United States are afflicted with a mild form of osteoarthritis.***

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* _Health in the Later Years of Life_, National Center for Health Statistics, (Rockville, Md., USGPO, 1971), p. 28.

** _Ibid_.

*** _Ibid_.

Thumbing through the card catalog looking for the necessary information to locate a book with fingers stiffened and painful from arthritis can prove a tiring and discouraging task. In larger libraries, a good deal of walking may be necessary to locate a book. This may be made difficult both by arthritis (as it affects the feet) and by orthopedic defects--impairments of limbs, back and trunk. In the 65 years and over group, 17.4 men per 100 suffer such disabilities, while 19.7 women are so afflicted.* The principal cause of these impairments is injury.

Orthopedic defects may make reaching up or stooping over difficult. When a patron finds the proper stack location for his book, the chances are two out of three that it will not be atwaist level. Either the patron must bend down, head towards the floor, or reach or climb up on a stool (if one is readily available) to reach his book. Light levels at the top and bottom of the stacks may be inadequate, so it is difficult to locate the title or call number. Due to a lessened sense of balance or a reduced tactile sense in the extremities, either may result in a fall. Additional strength is often necessary to pull a book out of a tightly packed space, which could further contribute to the likelihood of losing one's balance.

Health and Physical Mobility. It would appear, both from the answers on the questionnaire, and from the attendance at the various group meetings, that the respondents contacted are generally unrestricted as to physical mobility and in relatively good health. Only 20.2% said they are limited in some of their activities, while 31.3% state they are not limited in any of their activities. Fifty-eight percent felt themselves to be in either "excellent" or "good" health; 16.8% as excellent and 41.2% as good. Only 1.7% stated their health as "poor" and 37.8% felt their health was "fair".

Building Barriers. Many older public libraries are "Carnegie" buildings--and generally those buildings were designed to present a dignified and imposing public image. This image often included a fairly long flight of steps up to the front entrance. Also, the interiors were often designed with flights of steps between floors. About 22% of the persons 65 years and over have a heart condition which results in some activity limitation.** Climbing stairs may pose a severe limitation to those persons if other means of entering the building and gaining access to upper floors are not available. Aged people should not be expected to climb more than one flight of stairs, and the maximum riser height should not exceed 7 inches.

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* *Ibid.*, p. 29.

** *Ibid.*, Table 8. Average Number and Percent Distribution of Persons with Limitation of Activity Due to Selected Chronic Conditions at Ages 45-64 and 65 and Over: United States, July 1965-June 1967. p. 34.

The inconvenience of outside stairs may be overcome by providing a ramp while the difficulty of the inside stairs may be circumvented by providing an elevator for the patrons' use. It is suggested, however, that large, easily visible signs at street level should indicate the ramp location. Elevator locations should be clearly designated, together with a designation that they can be used by the public. Automatic elevator doors should be timed to close more slowly. If possible, swinging handles should be large enough to be easily grasped.

Well cared for library floors are often highly polished. While this may be aesthetically pleasing, and a good maintenance procedure, glare from such a floor may reduce awareness of irregularities in thresholds, stairs, etc. Such a floor surface may also be slippery which increases the possibility of falling. Low gloss, non-skid wax may reduce both glare and slipperiness and produce an additional margin of safety. Some elderly women become bowlegged and walk with a waddling gait which results in their not placing their feet as securely against the floor. Carpeting may provide a more secure footing than a bare floor, gives some acoustical control, and has the additional advantage of reducing the likelihood of injury if someone does fall. Falls are not a minor problem in the 65 and over segment. Nearly 80,000 persons died in 1971 as a result of accidental injuries.* An additional 800,000 older people suffered disabling injuries lasting at least one day. Total accidents claimed 17,600 persons in the over 75 age group and 10,500 in the 65-74 age group. Although accounting for about 10% of the population, they accounted for 24% of all accidents. About half the fatal accidents were caused by falls, 26% of which occurred in public places and institutions.

One of the most disorienting architectural features in hospitals and nursing homes tends to be the halls as they seem to be the least differentiated and least identifiable areas. What does the library have in addition to its own hallways? Row upon row of stack areas whose location is defined primarily by catalog numbers. In some larger libraries it would be possible for an older person to become confused and "lost". Signs to indicate the direction of the exit might prove comforting.

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* Aging, No. 219, (Jan., 1973), p. 14.

Bathrooms should be readily accessible on each floor with their locations clearly marked.

When one considers the comfort of older patrons who read in the library, lighting levels should be increased, at least in some limited areas, and temperatures should be increased to approximately 78 degrees Farenheit. (This temperature may not be possible considering the present energy shortage, but the suggested 68 degrees would be definitely uncomfortable.) Library chairs often are armless. In some of the libraries decorated in a "modern" style, chairs are relatively low as are reading tables, etc. With reduced leg strength, it may be difficult for an older person to rise without being able to push himself to a standing position against the arms of a chair. Exceptionally low chairs may be even more difficult for an older patron.

Every effort should be made to remove or alleviate such building barriers as stairways, slippery floors, inadequate lighting and heating and unsuitable furniture.

## Personal Inadequacies

Probably the most basic inadequacy felt by the older patron is lack of education. For those 65 and over, median years of school completed for 1969-70 was 8.7, and only 28.2% were high school graduates. When one considers that illiteracy is defined as less than 5 years of education (and it is possible that even that grade level is too low), and that persons who left school 50 years ago may have lost reading skill due to non-use, increasing library service to that portion of the aging population is particularly difficult. Somerset respondents, however, show between 1-4 years of high school as the median years of school completed.

Persons who have never or rarely used the library may be hesitant to admit they don't know how to use the library. Loss of various roles after retirement may be considered as societal rejection by some and to chance rebuff in a volunteer activity could be considered further rejection. In some activities, a person can watch others and gauge his activities accordingly even if he had never participated before. It is difficult to see how a person could learn to use the library effectively without admitting he didn't know how to search for a book in the card catalog and have some explanation of the meaning of the classification numbers. Often, too, the circulation desk is manned by high school students or quite young persons and an older person may hesitate to ask a young person for help. Young people generally take library service for granted and they might not realize the difficulty an older person might have in learning what the library could provide.

Many of the barriers to library use by older persons may not be remediable--certain physical handicaps cannot be reduced and it may not be possible to remove certain architectural barriers short of substantial building renovation or removal of library facilities to completely new quarters. Personal inadequacies, however, may be rendered less (objectionable) by classes designed to acquaint persons with the use of the library and a number of the services the library might perform which do not necessitate learning through the written word, such as films and lectures.

## Attitudes Toward the Library

A library attitude scale consisting of ten statements expressing commonly held beliefs about libraries and librarians was presented to the Somerset respondents. In some cases agreement with the statement constituted a "positive" answer while in others the "disagree" answer was considered the "positive" response. The following table shows the percentage of the respondents who gave positive responses to each of the ten statements:

## TABLE XXIIa

| Statement | Percent of Respondents Who Gave A Positive Answer | |
|---|---|---|
| | Agree | Disagree |
| The library is a pleasant place to spend a few hours. | 68.9 | |
| Librarians care more about books than they care about people. | | 47.1 |
| The library is mostly for students. | | 45.4 |
| The library provides a valuable service to the community. | 66.4 | |
| If a person cannot read well, there is no use going to the library. | | 52.9 |
| Librarians can suggest good books for a person to read. | 61.3 | |
| Librarians will help a person find what he is looking for if he asks for help. | 63.9 | |
| It is too hard to find what you want in the library. | | 46.2 |
| The library is a place where you can only whisper, not talk aloud. | | 31.1 |
| The library has programs to help people. | 52.9 | |

More than 60% of the respondents agree that the library is a pleasant place, that it provides a valuable community service, that librarians will provide requested assistance in locating materials, and that they can suggest good books. A little more than half feel that the library has programs helpful to people. Fewer than half of the respondents disagreed that librarians care more about books than people; that the library is mostly for students and that if a person is not an accomplished reader he shouldn't go to the library. Forty-six and two-tenths percent disagreed that it was too hard to find what you want in the library. In the areas covered by the negative statements, many persons in these older age groups appear to cling to attitudes that may have been more descriptive of public libraries attitudes and services some years back rather than at present. Public libraries have become increasingly more "people" rather than "book" oriented and public libraries have continually expanded the scope of their services to include pre-school children and numerous adult interest groups, as well as students. With the wider use of more sophisticated audio-visual materials, information and entertainment can be offered without the necessity of reading. So far as the difficulty of using the library is concerned, this obstacle can be overcome by simplified explanations for locating library materials.

It was anticipated that with the more lenient rules for ordinary speech in libraries that most persons would be aware of this change and that many respondents would disagree with the statement that one could only whisper in the library. Only 31.1% felt a person could talk aloud, while almost 1 in 5 persons agreed that a person must speak in whispers. From the answers given to the statements, it would appear that a number of misconceptions are still held by many of the respondents. If some of the negative views could be alleviated, increased library use might result.

## Library Use and Anticipated Use

Many people are not aware of the scope of services the modern public library performs. In an effort to make persons aware of some of these services (by merely reading the question), a list was made and the respondent was asked whether he had ever used a particular service or if he would like to use a particular service. It comes as no surprise that the most frequently used service was checking out books (39% of the respondents had used this service). Interestingly enough, the next most frequently mentioned activity was attending an art exhibit, mentioned by 36.1% of the respondents. Only an additional 1.7% mentioned that they would like to participate in this activity. Only 10.9% had ever attended a talk or movie program. Whether this might indicate that the respondents prefer art exhibits to talk and movie programs, or whether the art exhibits are more frequent or better publicized is not known. Apparently, however, the art exhibits are attended by many in this group.

Only 1.7% said they had ever borrowed a picture to hang on their wall at home, but 5.0% said they would like to use this service. This interest, in combination with the interest in art exhibits, might be used as a basis for talks on art appreciation and an accompanying display of art books which the library owns, and pictures the library has to loan.

Twenty-nine and four-tenths percent had looked up the answer to a special question in the library and 16.7% had called the library by telephone for an answer.

Since Pulaski County Public Library is located conveniently to the downtown area, and the respondents are for the most part not from the county areas, it is not too surprising that only 6.7% of the respondents had visited a bookmobile. An additional 3.4% said they would like to do so.

Although 84% of the respondents said they read a newspaper nearly every day, only 17% have ever read a newspaper in the library. A likely explanation is that the local newspaper is the one read and no purpose would be served by going down to the library to read it. It is possible that if a large print newspaper were available that it might be of some interest. Seventy-four and eight-tenths percent of the respondents state that they read magazines; yet, only 19% say they have ever read magazines in the library. Sixty-seven persons stated they read magazines, but 22 were non-library users. These 22 persons could be considered "potentials". Given the interest in reading magazines, it might be possible to encourage persons to begin to use the library through this medium. Magazine subscriptions are relatively expensive and copies are usually read only once and discarded. Consequently, greater emphasis on reading a variety of magazines in the library once a month might be suggested, especially for those magazines not commonly found in every household, i.e., Arizona Highways with its beautiful landscapes, Audubon Magazine, Natural History, Car and Driver, Consumer Reports, etc. For persons of limited reading skills and vocabulary, a number of magazines could convey information and aesthetic pleasure through illustrations and photographs.

The percentage of persons stating they read books is 65.9. Sixteen of the book readers are non-users of the library. These persons may be considered "potentials".

Certain areas of library service appear to be desired by more persons than are at present using them--among these are using "talking books" and cassettes; using the shut-in service, checking out large print books and using a microcard reader. In the area of talking books, more publicity could be given the older age groups about what a "talking book" is, what the requirements for qualifying for this service are and how and where to apply. More information or publicity could be given on the holdings in large print books. A demonstration might be given on how to use a microcard reader and how to use a microfilm copier if one is available.

For more detailed information on the use of library services and anticipated use, see Table XXIII, which follows.

## TABLE XXIII

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED

(In percentages of total respondents)

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 39 | 2.5 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 36.1 | 1.7 |
| Use library to look up answer to special question | 29.4 | 3.4 |
| Read magazines in the library | 19 | 2.5 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 17 | 1.7 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 16.7 | 2.5 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 10.9 | 2.5 |
| Use the copy machine | 8.4 | 3.4 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 6.7 | 3.4 |
| Check out a flim | 5 | 2.5 |
| Check location of unknown geographic location | 5 | 3.4 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 3.4 | 5.0 |
| Listen to records | 3.4 | 2.5 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 1.7 | 5.0 |
| Use "shut-in" service | 1.7 | 3.4 |
| Check out large print books | 1.7 | 3.4 |
| Use microcard reader | 1.7 | 3.4 |

## Reading Interests

As an aid in the selection of reading materials of special interest to retired persons, respondents were questioned on the subject matter they preferred. A reading list which included both fiction and non-fiction areas was included. A short description of each of the groups plus the preferred subjects follows.

Group A consisted of 27 persons, all women, in a group based on patriotism. The median age of the group was between 65-69 years and there was only one person over 80 who participated in the meeting. Median education was between 1 and 3 years of college.

Seventy-four percent (74%) stated that they had gone to the library within the last six months.

Twenty-two persons (81.5%) out of 27 said they read books. The most frequently mentioned type of fiction book was historical fiction (mentioned by 72.7%). In the non-fiction are, history was mentioned by 54.5% of those reading books, while biography and religion were mentioned by 50%. For a more detailed description of reading interests, see Table XXIV which follows.

## TABLE XXIV

## READING INTEREST PROFILE FOR BOOK READING
(by % of persons checking a specific subject)

### Group A

N = 27, all female
Median age: between 65-69
Median education: 1-3 years of college
Percent of total who read books = 81.5 (N = 22)

| Subject | Percent |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Historical fiction | 72.7 |
| Romance | 36.4 |
| Short stories | 36.4 |
| Mysteries | 27.3 |
| Humor | 22.7 |
| Westerns, science fiction, and animal stories were each mentioned only once. | |
| Non-fiction | |
| History | 54.5 |
| Biography | 50.0 |
| Religion | 50.0 |
| Current affairs | 36.4 |
| Travel | 31.8 |
| Homemaking | 22.7 |
| Poetry | 22.7 |
| Art | 18.2 |
| Plays | 18.2 |
| About music | 18.2 |
| Nature | 13.6 |
| Science was mentioned twice and philosophy once. | |

Group B, a group of retired railroad workers and their wives or widows, consisted of 27 persons, 9 male and 17 female, one failed to answer. The median age of the group was between 65 and 69 years of age, with three members over 80. Median education was between 1 to 3 years of high school.

Eleven percent (11%) stated that they had visited the library within the past six months.

A little over half of the respondents (55.6%) stated they read books. Westerns were mentioned by three of the men and mysteries and short stories were mentioned twice. Seven of the women mentioned short stories, while five mentioned humor and four mentioned adventure. As a group, 60% mentioned short stories, while religion was mentioned by 60% as their favorite non-fiction subject. A more detailed description of reading interests follows in Table XXV. However, it must be remembered that since the numbers of respondents in each category are so small, the percentages shown may not be reliable.

TABLE XXV

READING INTEREST PROFILE FOR BOOK READING
(by % of persons checking a specific subject)

Group B

N = 27; 9 male, 17 female, 1 failed to answer
Median age: between 65-69
Median education: 1-3 years of high school
Percent of total who read books - 55.6 (N = 15)

| Subject | Percent |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Short stories | 60 |
| Humor | 33 |
| Adventure | 33 |
| Westerns | 20 |
| Mysteries | 20 |
| Non-fiction | |
| Religion | 60 |
| Homemaking | 33 |
| Poetry | 20 |

Group C was an adult music appreciation group which consisted of only 5 persons. Consequently, percentages were not computed for this group.

Group D, a senior citizens' club, provided 13 respondents, 5 men and 8 women. Median education was between 1-3 years of high school and the median age was between 65 and 69.

Three persons (22%) stated they had been to the library within the last 6 months.

Nine of the 13 said they read books (69.2%). Since numbers of selections for each reading interest category was too small to provide meaningful percentages, none were computed. Nonetheless, reading interests are described briefly in Table XXVI.

## TABLE XXVI

## READING INTEREST PROFILE FOR BOOK READING
(by % of persons checking a specific subject)

Group D

N = 13; 5 males, 8 females
Median education: 1-3 years of high school
Median age: between 65-69
Percent of total who read books = 69.2 (N = 9)

Subject*

Fiction

Historical fiction, adventure, westerns, science fiction were each mentioned twice.

Non-fiction

Religion was mentioned four times, biography history and nature were each mentioned twice.

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* Numbers of selections for each category are too small to provide meaningful percentages.

A literary club (Group E), consisted of 12 persons, all women. The median age of the group was between 70 and 74 years and the median education was between 1 and 3 years of college.

Fifty-eight percent (58%) said they had visited the library during the last six months.

Eleven of the 12 (or 95%) said they read books, which seems logical since the group is based on their "interest in literature".

Historical fiction and short stories were mentioned by 54.5% of the women, while a little over a third (36.4%) mentioned romance, mysteries and humor. In the area of non-fiction, 54.5% mentioned religion as a favored subject, while biography and history were each mentioned by 36.4%. For additional detail, see table XXVII.

## TABLE XXVII

## READING INTEREST PROFILE FOR BOOK READING
(by % of persons checking a specific subject)

Group E

N = 12, all female
Median age: 70-74
Median education: 1-3 years college
Percent who read books: 91.7 (N = 11)

| Subject | Percent |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Historical fiction | 54.5 |
| Short stories | 54.5 |
| Romance | 36.4 |
| Mysteries | 36.4 |
| Humor | 36.4 |
| Adventure and science fiction were each mentioned once. | |
| Non-fiction | |
| Religion | 54.5 |
| Biography | 36.4 |
| History | 36.4 |
| Homemaking | 27.3 |
| Current affairs | 27.3 |
| Philosophy | 27.3 |
| Nature | 27.3 |
| Travel and poetry were each mentioned twice; business, science and art were mentioned once. | |

## The UP Index As Applied To Somerset

In an effort to predict the number of persons contacted who might most readily become library users, a 7-item index (hereinafter referred to as the User Potential or UP Index) has been constructed. It is assumed that the greater the cumulative score on the UP Index, the more likely it is that the person with such a score would be a library user. Those having scores in the middle ranges would be more likely to be infrequent users of the library and those with low scores would be most likely to be non-users of library services. Interpretation is complicated somewhat by non-responses to the library-oriented questions. However, it is assumed that this failure to answer indicates a lack of interest and such answers are given an accordingly low score.

If a respondent lacked the necessary education to use the library, if he were highly alienated, if he neither read books nor enjoyed reading, and if he had never, up to this point in his life, used the library, it is highly unlikely that he would begin to use the library after retirement. However, if he had the necessary education and liked reading books, if he had used the library even very infrequently, it is more likely that he might establish the habit of using the library (especially if programs were especially chosen to fit his needs and interests). Alternatively, if he enjoyed reading, had never used the library but had a negative attitude to the library, the solution might be an attempt to increase community appreciation and awareness of the services the library can provide.

The UP Index consists of the following components:

1. Highest level of education
2. Subjective attitude to happiness
3. Alienation score
4. Enjoyment of reading
5. Book reading
6. Former library use
7. Library attitude score

Thirty-five persons, 5 men and 30 women (Group F), were respondents from a class in continuing education at the local community college. The median age was between 70 and 74 years, and the median education between 1 and 3 years of college.

Fifty-one percent (51%) stated that they had visited the library within the last six months.

Eighteen of the 35 respondents said they read books, i.e., 51.4%. In the fiction category, historical fiction was mentioned by 77.8%; short stories by 66.6% and adventure and humor by half. In the non-fiction category, religion was the most favored subject (72.2%), with history and homemaking being mentioned by 55.5%. See Table XXVIII which follows for more detailed information.

## TABLE XXVIII

## READING INTEREST PROFILE FOR BOOK READING
(by % of persons checking a specific subject)

Group F

N = 35; 5 male, 30 female
Median age: between 70 - 74
Median education: 1 - 3 years college
Percent of total who read books = 51.4 (N=18 of 35)

| Subject | Percent |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Historical fiction | 77.8 |
| Short stories | 66.6 |
| Adventure | 50.0 |
| Humor | 50.0 |
| Mysteries | 33.3 |
| Romance | 22.2 |
| Animal stories | 22.2 |
| Westerns | 11.1 |
| Non-fiction | |
| Religion | 72.2 |
| History | 55.5 |
| Homemaking | 55.5 |
| Poetry | 50.0 |
| Nature | 44.4 |
| Current affairs | 38.8 |
| Biography | 38.8 |
| Travel | 33.3 |
| Business | 22.2 |
| Philosophy, science, art, and about music were each mentioned twice; attending plays or concerts, once. | |

Each of the above components is believed to contribute to the lieklihood of library use. The cross-tabulation of library use with education shows that the greatest increase in library usage occurs in conjunction with some college education. Consequently, college education and graduate education are weighted somewhat more heavily than elementary or high school education. With regard to the subjective attitude to happiness, it is felt that new or renewed experiences would be more likely to be acceptable if a person were generally happy with his situation. If a person has a low alienation score, his orientation would more likely be outward and library use might therefore be of more value to him in expanding his outlook and explaining his problems. Obviously, if a person just does not enjoy reading, he would not be very likely to use the library. Interestingly enough, though, with the advent of audio-visual equipment, persons who are not necessarily "readers" may be able to be informed and entertained through library programs in ways that were not heretofore possible. Since most people do not go to the library to read newspapers or magazines, the most likely candidates for library use would be book readers. Since learning to use the library does take some effort on the part of the patron to use the library effectively, it is felt that if such library use were not an entirely new experience, there would be less resistance to using the library. After all, it may be difficult to start something entirely new after retirement. Finally, how a person feels about the library and its services would have some bearing on whether or not it were used. The potential patron may have had unpleasant experiences in his earlier years when he tried to use the library. Libraries have changed in attitude and improved and expanded services in the last twenty years or so and are now (generally speaking) more service and less custodial oriented places. Initial reluctance might have to be overcome by some kind of orientation in the use of the library and an assurance of a friendly and helpful welcome of the older patron by the library staff.

The following table indicates scoring used in the UP Index together with the locations of the component parts on two revisions of the questionnaire. (Refer to Forms 3 and 4 of the questionnaire as shown in Chapter II.)

## SCORING FOR UP INDEX

| Question No. Rev. #4 | Old Questionnaire | Subject | Score | Maximum Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | Highest Level of Education | | |
| | | Elementary | 0 | |
| | | Any high school | 1 | |
| | | Any college | 3 | |
| | | Graduate school | 4 | 4 |
| 18 | 21 | Happy | | |
| | | On old questionnaire, if fairly happy or very happy | 1 | |
| | | Happy or very happy | 1 | 1 |
| 19 (A-E) | 22 (1-5) | Alienation Score (Score) | | |
| | | Note: Old questionnaires are coded in opposite direction. | | |
| | | If score is 0, 1 or 2 | 0 | |
| | | If score is 3, 4 or 5 | 1 | 1 |
| 30 | 33 (1-10) | Enjoy Reading | | |
| | | Note: On old questionnaire, if score is 5 or more, code | 2 | |
| | | If yes, | 2 | 2 |
| 33 | 39 | Read Books | | |
| | | If yes | 1 | 1 |
| 36 | 45 | Former Library Use | | |
| | | Never (if not answered, code | 0 | |
| | | if checked, code minus | 2 | |
| | | Count one for each check | | |
| 38 (1-10) | 49 (1-10) | Library Attitude Score (Score 2) | | |
| | | If score is 0 to 3 | 0 | |
| | | If score is 4,5,6 or 7 | 1 | |
| | | If score is 8,9, or 10 | 2 | 2 |

A cross-tabulation of the scores of individuals on the UP Index with library use resulted in the following table:

## SOMERSET USER POTENTIAL SCORE AS ASSOCIATED WITH LIBRARY USE

| UP Score | User |  | Infrequent User |  | Non-User |  | Total |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent |
| 12 - 15 | 17 | 14.3 | 2 | 1.7 | 3 | 2.5 | 22 | 18.5 |
| 8 - 11 | 10 | 8.4 | 10 | 8.4 | 14 | 11.8 | 34 | 28.6 |
| Below 7 | 6 | 5.0 | 7 | 5.9 | 50 | 42.0 | 63 | 52.9 |
|  | 33 | 27.7 | 19 | 16.0 | 67 | 56.3 | 119 | 100.0 |

It can be seen that 27 of 33 library users have scores between 8 and 15. Seventeen library users, or about 14% of the total number of respondents have scores between 12 and 15. Only two persons, or less than 2%, with a score between 12 and 15 are infrequent users and only 3 persons with high scores are non-users of library services. Of those with intermediate scores (between 8 and 11), about 8% are users, about 8% are infrequent users and about 12% are non-users. Of those persons scoring below 7 on the UP Index, 6 are users; 7 are infrequent users and 50 or 42% of the total number of respondents are non-users. Thus it can be seen that high scores appear to be associated with library usage, intermediate scores with use and infrequent use, and low scores primarily with non-use.

When determining a realistic target group for increase in library services, generally speaking, the older population who might use the library will be reduced by

(1) those over 75 years of age since their level of activity may be sharply reduced

(2) those who have less than an 8th grade education

(3) those who are afflicted with physical handicaps or chronic conditions which result in a number of days of restricted activity

(4) those who are institutionalized

(5) those who are unable to get to the library due to lack of transportation

Given these restrictive conditions, the total number of older persons in any service area could not be considered potential library users. Nonetheless, some persons in categories (3), (4) and (5) may still become library patrons through the medium of specialized outreach programs.

It is anticipated that it would be easier to motivate persons with high and intermediate scores who are non-users to become users of library service. These would include the 3 persons with scores between 12 and 15 and the 14 persons with scores between 8 and 11. It is further anticipated that it might be easier to induce those infrequent users with intermediate and high scores to use the library more frequently. Thus there would be 17 "potentials" in the non-user category and 12 in the infrequent user category. Accordingly, a realistic target group for these respondents would be between 17 and 29 people. If success of the program is judged only by the percentage of total respondents they attract, a danger exists that the response might be considered "unsuccessful" when, in fact, the program may have attracted a considerable proportion of the "potentials". If we further consider that not all "potentials" would become library users under even the most propitious of circumstances, and if we consider that only about one-third of the respondents are library users, additional programs might be considered successful if approximately 8 or 10 persons responded to the particular programs. Consequently, judgment of program success should be cautiously interpreted in light of the attributes of the respondents.

## Program Possibilities at Somerset

The preliminary data from the user/non-user survey shows that most elderly groups enjoy reading short stories in fiction and historical fiction with romance, humor, and adventure being their next three choices. In the non-fiction category the two most popular areas are history and religion with biographies and homemaking following closely behind.

The list of activities most often checked by the elderly in the order of their preference were yard work, church and volunteer work, taking a vacation, and sewing.

The reading interest profile shows a definite preference for history. Since the Pulaski County Library has a local history collection maintained separately from their other collections, it seems that an oral history program would be ideal for the elderly people in the community. A program similar to "Down Memory Lane", part of the Cleveland's Live Long and Like It Club or "Memory Ink" which was sponsored by the Cincinnati Public Library could be started at Pulaski. In order to make the program more interesting and unique, the audio-visual equipment could be used to tape the people who are reminiscing. The older people could be asked to bring in any old photographs of how the area looked when they were growing up, and any cultural or domestic items from the past could be shown and recorded with an explanation of their use. The videotapes could become part of the permanent collection and be shown at historical meetings throughout the state.

Another program that would be in the same interest area is a genealogy workshop like the one held in Seattle, Washington. However, this program would not be as ideal as the oral history because there is a fee involved and a need for a special librarian interested in the field of genealogy. Perhaps someone at the Community College in Somerset would be qualified and would donate his/her time. The cost of the printing of workshop materials might be assumed by one of the local organizations such as Kiwanis.

This could be taped and shown to other librarians interested in a program in genealogy. This field has become quite popular, and the videotape could be used as an instructional guide to set up other workshops.

The preliminary data shows that fictional short stories were mentioned most often as a reading interest. A role-playing session using a popular, fictional short story such as "Profession" by Isaac Asimov or a one-act play could be used with the audio-visual equipment and it would help the session seem more professiona. The older people would be the actors and actresses and a director and stage manager could be named. This would be an interesting way to learn how to use the audio-visual packet made available at the library. The librarians could suggest the short stories or one-act plays which they thought would be appropriate. Then these videotapes can be shown as recreational programs in the library.

The most popular non-fiction reading interest for the elderly as a whole was religion. Three possible program choices come to mind here. One would be a program similar to those performed at Roddenbery Memorial Library where letters are sent to the ministers informing them of the library services that are available. They explain the talking book and cassette machines and prepare a bibliography that is distributed in the churches. It would be appropriate here to explain how to use the library and the elderly could be invited to participate in the program also. Many of the older people surveyed mentioned that they would be interested in using some of the services that they never had used in the library. A program on how to use the library would include instruction on some of the services, such as borrowing a picture, using the microcard reader, checking out large print books and others with a high percentage of anticipated use, so the elderly would be aware and perhaps more likely to use the equipment they had been shown. Approximately 3.4% of the respondents said they used "talking books" or cassettes, but 5% said they would like to use this service. Since the Library of Congress' statistics show nationally that 65% of the participants in the talking book and cassette programs are elderly, a demonstration of the talking book machine and cassette recorder should be included in the program on how to use the library. Application blanks and fact sheets of the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped should be made available and explained if deemed necessary.

Another program could be a read and sew group where one person reads the Bible or religious story while the others listened and sewed pillow cases, quilts, or clothes for a church bazaar. Sewing and church and volunteer work were mentioned as frequent leisure time activities so a program as such would seem to be in line with the older people's interests.

The third program potential in this area would be to invite the Somerset-Pulaski County Ministerial Association to sponsor jointly a workshop on aging. A six-week Church Leaders' Workshop on Aging was sponsored by the Miami Public Library and active church leaders of all the major faiths were invited to attend. In Somerset the church leaders could be active in the workshop by giving presentations on the churches' services for older people or death and dying. The gerontological workshop sponsored by the project was very well received in Somerset. Another workshop could complement the first and the elderly people themselves should be invited to attend. Invitations could be sent to the various groups that participated in the survey.

Two more frequent leisure activities that were not mentioned earlier are yard work and taking a vacation. A program can be developed for both of these areas. The library can sponsor an "Earth Day" at the library where they have different speakers give appropriate talks on lawn and garden care, flower nourishment, and plant diseases. Appropriate films can be shown, and exhibits and book collections can be displayed. Perhaps some of the activities of the program planning clinics for gardeners at the Roddenbery Memorial Library could be included in the agenda for the celebration of Earth Day at the library. Speakers for the event could be obtained from the Pulaski County Extension Service, the Somerset Community College, and the Garden Club.

Regularly scheduled slide programs could make good use of the slides taken on one's vacation. A travel club similar to Live Long and Like It's travel program could be started at the library. Different people could be asked to prepare a short talk which includes slides, movies, or pictures of the place that they visited while on vacation. The librarian could suggest certain books which give background information on the vicinity, and this could be included in the talk.

Since many elderly people are women and homemaking was mentioned as a popular reading interest for the non-fiction category, some thought might be given to a consumer service program. Such a program was sponsored by the Roddenbery Memorial Library for the residents (middle aged and older) of a housing project. The topics discussed could cover consumer quackery, techniques of buying for one or two people, nutrition, elimination of architectural barriers in the home, and general health care. The Kentucky Department of Libraries' Consumer Education Kit for Adults and film, Getting Your Monies Worth might be used to complement the live presentations. Also the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General has literature on Consumer Affairs and an educational specialist who could give a presentation at a program of this nature.

Since the most frequently used activity was checking out books, it would be of interest to check the collections of materials in the library with the results of the survey. The bookmobile makes three intracity stops to nursing and rest homes and the collections could be surveyed to see if they are in agreement with the results obtained on the reading interest profile.

Most of the respondents in Somerset had a rather high educational attainment as compared to the National figures for the elderly. It is appropriate to realize this when planning for a group of older adults who were not part of the survey such as those in public housing, nursing homes, and rest homes. A simple film program or recreational-educational program might be satisfying to this group even though these types of services received a low percentage of anticipated use in the survey. A more unconventional program such as the Consumer Service Program for residents of a housing project in Cairo, Georgia, might be appropriate for this group.

## Summary

It must be pointed out that the Somerset respondents are doubly self-selected--first, because by their own choice they are members of groups and second, because they agreed to participate in the survey. Additionally, it must be remembered that they are mostly women, fairly well-educated, healthy,mobile, and predominantly white collar workers. Most participate in a number of social activities and in general, they are happy, satisfied with their income and housing arrangements and find their retirement situation either about the same or better than they expected. Even though the respondents have many attributes favorable to the use of the library, the User Potential Index indicates that only about 24% of the respondents might be considered to be "potential" users of the library or by increasing library use by infrequent users.

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# LEXINGTON

IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICE
FOR OLDER ADULTS

LEXINGTON

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# IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICE FOR OLDER ADULTS

## LEXINGTON

### Introduction

Mindful of the practical objectives of the Kentucky Library Project as a whole--generally speaking, to enhance the lives of older persons through increasing and extending library services to them; and more particularly, to establish innovative models of library service--the present report will be presented in a somewhat different style from the usual academic research report. It is felt that the report on the characteristics of users and non-users of library services would not be particularly useful to the librarians and staff in furthering the objectives of the project if couched in terms of the null hypothesis and including a detailed description of the methodology and statistical analysis. Alternatively, it is my hope that the materials can be presented in such a way as not only to impart information about the respondents in the particular location but to induce greater sympathy and understanding of some of the problems older persons face when using the library. Additional explanatory or supportive data may be included from the community profile, the library profile and the fields of gerontology, medicine, architecture, etc. While many of the barriers to library use my be inherent in the process of aging and therefore in some ways irremediable, the greater awareness of these problems may generate a more relaxed approach to difficulties which arise and may provide a happier milieu for both librarian and older user.

Materials and activities generated by the research may prove productive at several levels--

(1) The administration of the questionnaire itself can provide a positive or constructive element in alerting persons to many of the services the library can provide. It is good public relations. In essence, it says, "Your library cares what you think", and "We want to do a better job for you."

(2) The methodology (especially the use of group interviews) provides a less-often-used approach in the gathering of information.

(3) At the level of the frequency counts, such information may be put to direct use. For example, if frequency counts show many persons prefer to read history and historical fiction, more titles in these areas may be placed in collections in retirement homes, or sent out on bookmobiles which serve an older segment of the population. If sufficient numbers of persons are found to be interested in gardening as a hobby, or various handcrafts, etc., classes

in such areas might be instituted and books provided in those areas by the library.

Certain of the measures may be useful to other agencies serving this segment of the population. For example, if a high percentage of the respondents live in one-person households, these persons might be interested in programs similar to Meals on Wheels in which food is centrally prepared and delivered to a person's home or in a "Country Gathering" where people go to a central location and take meals together. Even some two-person families might be interested in this service, particularly if one of them is physically unable to shop for food and prepare meals, or if both suffer physical disabilities. Often better nutrition is achieved which might result in greater participation in other ways such as library use.

(4) Statistical analysis may help to determine those underlying attributes most necessary to increased library usage. A User Potential Index (hereinafter referred to as the UP Index) has been formulated, in an effort to determine what portion of the non-library-user group might most easily be encouraged to become library users, and which of the infrequent users might be encouraged to use the library more often.

## What do we hope to find out?

The questionnaire is expected to elicit baseline data concerning differences in various socio-economic characteristics such as marital status, living arrangements, educational attainments, and sources of and amounts of income. Areas of activity such as leisure interests, and social and community contacts will be analyzed. Finally, responses regarding attitude toward the library, use and anticipated use of library services and reading interests will be interpreted. A synthesis of the above information in terms of users and non-users of library services (in conjunction with community and library profiles already completed as a separate segment of the Kentucky Library Project) will be used to initiate innovative library services.

## What people were included in the study?

Participants in the study are included by age and status in the labor force. Persons over the age of 65 are included, irrespective of their status in the labor force. Persons younger than 65 are included if they say they are "retired". These might include wives, younger than 65, of retired men. Generally, if a woman is married to a retired man, she considers herself "retired" also. Some widows consider themselves "retired" even though they might never have worked for wages. Certain persons "retire" from positions which require that they fulfill a certain number of years of service. These persons might be "retired" from a career job (perhaps military) although they are presently employed either full or part time.

## How was the material gathered?

The initial problem of contacting older persons was solved by asking for the cooperation of various groups of persons in the service area of the library who were already members of clubs primarily composed of older persons. Group interviews were used in which a questionnaire was filled out by the respondents at various locations in Lexington during the spring and summer of 1973.

## How was library use defined?

A "user" is a person who has been to the library within the last month.

An "infrequent user" is a person who has been to the library within the last six months, but not during the last month.

A "non-user" is a person who stated he has not been to the library during the last six months or who stated he didn't know when he last went to the library.

## How can the respondents be described?

Two hundred seventy-nine persons filled out questionnaires: two hundred twenty-eight females and forty-eight males, which included four black respondents. Three persons failed to answer the question on sex. The sex ratio for the State of Kentucky for 1970 according to the U.S. Census figures was 96.3 males for every 100 females.* As can be readily seen, the group is underrepresented as to men and blacks.

Respondents belonged to one of eight different groups: a homemaker's group, a retired teachers' group, a senior citizens club, two groups residing in high rises especially for the elderly, a social group sponsored by a church, a group belonging to the American Association of Retired Persons, and a group composed of retired federal employees.

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*U.S. Bureau of the Census, Characteristics of the Population, Vol. 1, Partl 19, Kentucky, p. 19.

While it cannot be claimed that the persons in each of the age categories is necessarily representative of the age group in the county as a whole (especially since the respondents are generally from the non-rural areas, and do not include men in the same proportion as the sex ratio for Kentucky would indicate), nonetheless, information from these available may provide valuable insights into improving library services to all older age groups. Due to the nature of the study (primarily of those who consider themselves "retired") respondents under the age of 55 would not reflect their numbers in the general county population. In each age category over 65, a higher percentage of persons is included among the respondents than is reflected in the total county population 55 years of age and over. It is surprising to find that 14.3% of the respondents are over 80 years of age. One would ordinarily expect a marked decrease in activity in the over 80 group and therefore one would anticiapte the inclusion of fewer than 11% as their numbers are reflected in the county population.

## Social and Economic Characteristics

How do the social and economic characteristics of the Lexington respondents compare with those of the United States as a whole? The attributes we will consider are marital status, household composition, educational attainment, sources and amount of income, poverty level and satisfaction with income.

Marital Status. More than half (50.5%) of the Lexington respondents are widowed. Thirty-two and three-tenths percent are married living with their spouses, and 8.6% have never married. Only 5.4% are divorced and .7% are separated. So far as library use is concerned 64.4% of the married persons and 73.3% of the widowed are non-users of library services.

Household Composition. Almost half (49.8%) of the respondents live alone, while an additional 25.1% live in two-person households consisting of the respondent and his or her spouse. Sixteen and eight-tenths percent live with relatives while 1.1% live with other persons not related to them.

Education. One of the critical attributes prerequisite to high library usage is years of education completed. "...education and more education is needed to make a reader... education is overwhelmingly the factor most closely associated with reading."*

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*Lowell A. Martin, Baltimore Reaches Out, Library Services to the Disadvantaged, (Baltimore, Md., Enoch Pratt Free Library, June, 1967), p. 25.

The statement made in "Baltimore Reaches Out" comes as no surprise as numerous studies have found the statement to be true. This study is no exception. Accordingly, the older age groups are generally at some disadvantage educationally as their median years of education completed is somewhat lower than those in the younger age segments. In the U.S. as a whole, the median years of school completed, for those 65 years and over for the years 1969-70 was 8.7 and only 28.2% were high school graduates. By contrast, 60.4% of persons 25 to 64 years of age are high school graduates.*

For males 65 and over, the median years of school completed was 8.6 and for females 8.8. As a practical matter, this could mean that approximately half of the 65 and over population would be unlikely candidates for library service. It is expected, however, that as the younger age groups with their proportionately greater education move into the retirement age brackets that by 1990 the median years of school completed for those 65 and over will rise from the present 8.7 years to 11.9 years.** This increase in education alone whould provide an additional number of potential library users. According to figures from the 1970 Census for the entire United States, 4% of those 65 and over have had no school at all; 53% have completed between 1 and 8 years; 27% have completed 4 years or more of high school, but only 6% have completed 4 years or more of college.***

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*U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), Table 19., Educational Attainment of the Population 65 Years Old and Over and 25 to 64 Years of Age, for Various Years: 1957 to 1990, p. 25.

***Op. cit.*, Table 19., Educational Attainment for the Population 65 Years Old and Over and 25 to 64 Years of Age, for Various Years: 1957 to 1990, p. 25.

****We the American Elderly*, Bureau of the Census, Public Information Office, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p.

The following table shows the group distribution of respondents:

## TABLE I

## GROUP DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS
(In Percentages)

| GROUP | NUMBER | PERCENT |
|---|---|---|
| Group 1 (Homemakers) | 22 | 7.8 |
| Group 2 (Retired Teachers) | 20 | 7.1 |
| Group 3 (American Association of Retired Persons) | 22 | 7.8 |
| Group 4 (Senior Citizens Club) | 52 | 18.3 |
| Group 5 (Group in high rise) | 65 | 23.3 |
| Group 6 (Retired Federal Employees) | 23 | 8.2 |
| Group 7 (Church sponsored Social Group) | 39 | 14.0 |
| Group 8 (Group in high rise) | 36 | 13.2 |
|  | 279 | 100.0 |

Since the service area of the library embodies all of Fayette County, it might be wise at this point to make some comparison of the age distribution of the respondents to the age distribution of persons 55 years of age and over in Fayette County.

### TABLE II

### AGE DISTRIBUTION

### FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

### 55 YEARS AND OVER
(in percent of population over 55)

| | |
|---|---|
| Total county population | 174,323 |
| Total population 55 and over | 26,629 |

| AGE IN YEARS | NUMBER | PERCENT |
|---|---|---|
| Over 80 | 2,809 | 11 |
| 75-79 | 2,519 | 9 |
| 70-74 | 3,572 | 13 |
| 65-69 | 4,664 | 18 |
| 55-64 | 13,065 | 49 |
| | 26,629 | 100 |

Source: Table 35, "Age by Race and Sex, for Counties: 1970", U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, General Population Characteristics, Final Report, PC (1) B19, Kentucky p. 142.

The following table shows the age distribution of the respondents:

## TABLE III

## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS
(in percentages)

| AGE IN YEARS | NUMBER | PERCENT |
|---|---|---|
| Over 80 | 40 | 14.3 |
| 75-79 | 50 | 17.9 |
| 70-74 | 74 | 26.5 |
| 65-69 | 72 | 25.8 |
| 55-64 | 26 | 9.3 |
| Under 55 | 7 | 2.5 |
| Missing observations | 10 | 3.6 |
|  | 279 | 99.9% |

The following table indicates the number of years of school completed by the Lexington respondents:

## TABLE IV

## YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

LEXINGTON RESPONDENTS
(in percent)
(Number=279)

| | |
|---|---|
| Less than 8 grades | 14.7 |
| 1 - 4 years of high school | 34.1 |
| 1 - 4 years of college | 27.2 |
| 1 - 4 years of graduate school | 15.4 |
| No answer | 8.6 |
| | 100.0 |

Comparison with the national figures indicates that while 57% had completed 8 years or less, only 14.7% of the Lexington respondents had so little education; and that 42.6% had completed high school and had some college or graduate work. Consequently, the Lexington respondents appear to be a rather select group in terms of educational accomplishment.

In a cross-tabulation of library use and years of school completed, it can be seen that (as expected) library non-use decreases with increased education. Only 6.8% of the persons with less than an eighth grade education are users or infrequent users of library services, whereas 46.1% of persons with 1 - 4 years of college and 50% of persons with 1 - 4 years of graduate study are users or infrequent users.

## TABLE V

## EDUCATION AND LIBRARY USE
(in percent)

| | Non-User | Infrequent User | User |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1- 8 years | 93.1 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| 9-12 years | 79.1 | 6.0 | 14.9 |
| 1- 4 years college | 53.8 | 13.8 | 32.3 |
| 1- 4 years graduate school | 50.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 |

## Sources of Income

Pre-retirement Employment. As a response to a relatively high educational level and the number of years in the labor force, one would expect that pre-retirement employment of the Lexington respondents would likely be predominantly in the white collar category.

The following table delineates the pre-retirement employment of the Lexington respondents:

### TABLE VI

### PRE-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT*

### OF

### LEXINGTON RESPONDENTS

(in percent)
(Number=224)

| | |
|---|---|
| Service workers | 9.4% |
| Farm workers | 0.9% |
| Blue collar workers | 8.5% |
| White collar workers | 81.2% |
| | 100.0% |

---

*Briefly stated, service workers (except private household workers such as cooks, housekeepers, maids and servants) include such categories as barbers, firemen, policemen, practical nurses, elevator operators, and hairdressers. Farm workers include farm laborers and farm foremen. Blue collar workers include craftsmen and kindred workers, such as carpenters, electricians, machinists, painters, etc., transport equipment operatives, and laborers, except farm. White collar workers including such categories as engineers, social scientists, teachers, draftsmen; managers and administrators, except farm; sales workers, clerical and kindred workers. For a detailed listing of categories included in the four classes, refer to List A. Occupational Classification for Total and White Males..., U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, Subject Reports, Final Report PC-2, 8B, Earnings by Occupation and Education, (Washington, DC, Government Printing Office, 1973), p. 105, IX and X.

Nineteen persons stated that they had never worked for wages. The median number of years worked on the preretirement job was a little over 23 years.

The labor force profile from the 1970 Census for the State of Kentucky for workers in 1965, 65 years of age and over, excluding those who did not report their occupations, is as follows:

### TABLE VII*

### MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP IN 1965 OF WORKERS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE WHO REPORTED THEIR OCCUPATIONS KENTUCKY, 1970

| | |
|---|---|
| White Collar | 48% |
| Blue Collar | 26% |
| Farm workers | 9% |
| Service workers | 17% |

Source:* Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, Subject Reports, Final Report, PC (2) - 7E, Occupation and Residence in 1965, Table 2, Major Occupation Groups in 1970 of those 20 years old and over by Major Occupation in 1965, Age, Race, and Spanish Origin in 1970, (Washington, D. C., USGPO, 1973), p. 6 and 16.

By using the 65 years and over age segment who were working in 1965, the distribution should take into account the number of years in the labor force to some extent. From a comparison of the two profiles, the Lexington respondents are disproportionately white collar workers. A possible explanation is that white collar workers are more apt to be "joiners" of groups and thus much more likely to be included in a survey sample.

So far as library use is concerned, thirty-two persons in the categories of blue collar, farm workers and service workers answered the question. Only one blue collar and one service worker are library users. The only farm worker among the respondents is a library user. In contrast, 149 white collar workers answered the library use question and 20.1% of those are library users and 14.1% are infrequent users.

Present Sources of Income. From what sources does the income of the Lexington respondents arise? As one would expect, the most frequently mentioned source of income is Social Security, which is received by 72.0% of the respondents. Twenty-eight and seven-tenths percent stated they received interest from investments or rents, but only 10.4% said they made withdrawals from savings, selling real estate or cashing bonds. Twenty-six and nine-tenths percent received some state or federal government persion income. One and eight-tenths percent received Old Age Assistance.

For more detailed information on source of income see Table VII, "Sources of Income of Respondents".

### TABLE VIII

### SOURCE OF INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

(Income for year 1972)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Social Security Benefits | 72.0 |
| Interest from Investments and Rents | 28.7 |
| State or Federal Government Pension | 26.9 |
| Private or Company Pension | 11.5 |
| Withdrawals from Savings, Selling Real Estate or Cashing Bonds | 10.4 |
| A Job | 6.8 |
| Relative | 3.6 |
| Any other government assistance at all | 2.9 |

TABLE VIII Con't
(Income for year 1972)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Railroad Pension | 2.2 |
| Old Age Assistance | 1.8 |
| Government Payment because of some injury | .0 |

---

* Does not add to 100.0% since more than one source could not be checked.

Labor Force Participation. On the national scene, for men 65 and over, labor participation has shown a steady decrease from 45.8 per hundred in 1950 to 25.5 in 1971. The rate for those past 70 was 17.0. For females, the national rate of participation has remained relatively stable, being 9.7 per hundred in 1950 for those 65 and over and decreasing only slightly to 9.5 for 1971.*

In Fayette County, 29.2% of the men 65 and over and 13.4% of the females 65 and over are still in the labor force.** Among the Lexington respondents, approximately one person in fourteen still received income from some kind of job.

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*Table 22, Labor Force Participation Rates for the Population 55 Years and Over, By Age, Sex, and Race for Various Years: 1950 to 1980, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, DC, USGPO, 1973), p. 28.

**U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, Characteristics of the Population, Vol. 1, Part 19, Kentucky, Table 21, Employment Characteristics for Counties: 1970 (Washington, DC, USGPO, 1973), pp. 414-423.

## Amount of Income, Poverty Level and Satisfaction with Income

*Income*. In spite of a certain resistance by some people to answering the question on income, (even though the categories were relatively broad since detailed information was not necessary for the purposes of this study), 61 people failed to answer, or approximately 1 out of 5. The following table shows the percentage distribution of income of the respondents:

TABLE IX

INCOME OF RESPONDENTS
(in percentage of total respondents)

| AMOUNT PER MONTH | PERCENT |
|---|---|
| Less than $200 | 19.0 |
| Over $200 but less than $500 | 34.4 |
| Over $500 but less than $750 | 11.5 |
| Over $750 but less than $1,000 | 5.7 |
| Over $1,000 | 7.5 |
| Failed to answer | 21.9 |

When marital status is taken into account, the following figures result:

## TABLE X

## MARITAL STATUS AND INCOME OF RESPONDENTS PER MONTH

(in percentages)

| MARITAL STATUS | Less than $200 | Over $200 but less than $500 | Over $500 but less than $750 | Over $750 but less than $1000 | Over $1000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Married (N=69) | 4.3 | 33.3 | 24.6 | 14.5 | 23.2 |
| Widowed (N=113) | 38.9 | 50.4 | 7.1 | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| Never Married (N=20) | 10.0 | 50.0 | 25.0 | 15.0 | 0.0 |
| Divorced (N=11) | 36.4 | 27.3 | 9.1 | 9.1 | 18.2 |

Poverty Level. In order to assess the adequacy of the above figures in terms of level of living, a comparison of those figures with the "Retired Couple Budget" put out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics might be useful. The retired couple budget is based not on poverty level (established each year from the Current Population Survey of annual income for farm and non-farm families of varying sizes by a rather complicated formula), but on a "modest but adequate" standard of living. In 1969, the poverty level for a person aged 65 or over living alone or with non-relatives averaged $1,749 and for a couple with head 65 or over, it averaged $2,194.* The "modest but adequate" retired couple's budget includes a detailed list of items such as food, housing, transportation, clothing and personal care, medical care, personal income taxes and "other" items. The budget also assumes some existing inventory of clothing, furniture and appliances.

The budgetary levels established, as of the spring of 1970, are as follows:

| BUDGET LEVEL** | SINGLE PERSON 65 + | COUPLE 65 + |
|---|---|---|
| Lower | $1,555 | $2,832 |
| Intermediate | 2,297 | 4,185 |
| Higher | 3,177 | 5,786 |

A recent revision of budget levels for autumn, 1972, shows the following figures for the urban retired couple:

| BUDGET LEVEL | TOTAL |
|---|---|
| Lower | $3,442 |
| Intermediate | 4,967 |
| Higher | 7,689 |

The increases are calculated by using changes in the consumer price index and show increases over the 1971 budget of 3.7% for the lower level, 4.0% for the intermediate and 3.3% for the higher level.***

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*Administration on Aging, Facts and Figures on Older Americans, No. 1, "Measuring Adequacy of Income", (Washington, D.C., DHEW, 1972), p. 3.

**Ibid., p. 6.

***From Statistical Memo #26, dated October 5, 1973 to AOA Professional Staff from Blanch S. Williams.

By comparing income according to marital status it can be seen that while the respondents are not the most impoverished of persons, that 4.3% of the married couples have less than $2,400 per year income. This would fall somewhat below the lower budget levels for couples revised as of the autumn of 1972. Thirty-ghree and three-tenths percent of the married respondents have less than $6,000 per year income, which would fall between the intermediate and higher budgetary levels for couples. Nonetheless, 62.3% have in excess of $6,000 per year and 23.3% have in excess of $12,000 per year. Thirty-eight and nine-tenths percent of the widowed have less than $2,400 per year, which would place them slightly above the intermediate budgetary figures for 1970. A little over half (50.4%) of the widowed have between $2,400 and $6,000 per year, which would place many above the higher budgetary level. Ten and seven-tenths percent of the widowed have incomes in excess of $6,000 which places them well above the higher "modest but adequate" determinants. Among the Lexington respondents, only 1.8% of the widowed as compared to 23.2% of the married couples have yearly incomes in excess of $12,000.

One should be aware also that the budgetary figures above do not take into account either the length of time a person has been retired or the amount of assets available at retirement. How much are such retirement assets likely to be? A recently begun (1969) ten-year longitudinal study by the Social Security Administration gathered information on pre-retirement assets from 11,153 men aged 58-63, regardless of marital status, and women of the same ages who were not, when selected, living with a spouse, the sample being drawn from all 50 states. Married women were not included since "for most married women of this generation "retirement" has little meaning apart from their husband's stopping work".* Half of all the reporting non-married units had a total net worth (assets less debt) of less than $4,500. When home equity was excluded, the amount dropped below $900. With married men, half had more than $16,000 in net worth and more than $4,600 other than in home equity.**

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*Lola M. Irelan, Retirement History Study, Report No. 1, (Washington, D.C., Social Security Administration, 1973), p. 6.

**Sally R. Sherman, "Assets on the Threshold of Retirement", Social Security Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 8, (August, 1973), p. 14.

Sixty-five is generally conceded as the usual retirement age although women may retire at age 62. How long, in general, should assets and post-retirement income be expected to last? In Kentucky (1968) the average remaining years of life was 12.9 for males and 16.4 for females. If a woman retires at 62 instead of 65, she might spend 19.4 years "retired".* A woman's chances of surviving to older ages are greater than a man's. Once having reached age 65 a man has only 200 chances in 1,000 of reaching age 85 while a woman has 352---about one and one-half times as much.** Disproportionate budgetary stress may result for women since their income either as wage earners or as pensioners through survivorship is usually smaller.

Thus, considering the expenditure only of "modest but adequate" budgets plus the relatively long life expectancy of persons after retirement, it is obvious that such assets could not long sustain either an individual or a couple in the absence of other sources of income.

Satisfaction with Income. Interestingly enough, 62.7% of the respondents stated that they were satisfied with their income. Since 20.1% failed to answer the question, and only 5.4% said they didn't know whether they were satisfied or not, only 11.8% voiced dissatisfaction with their income.

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*Regional Variations in Longevity at Ages 65 and Older, Metropolitan Life Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 54, (September, 1973), p. 11.

**Ibid.

## Social Contracts and Activities

One of the goals set forth by the 1971 White House Conference on Aging was to "achieve and maintain positive and well integrated social relations within the family and community".* It is assumed that if persons maintain such social relations their continued interest in various areas would be a likely stimulus to the use of the library. Conversely, high alienation would likely militate against library use. In an effort to measure some areas of "life space" or "...that network of social interactions unique to a particular individual",** questions were asked regarding the amount of leisure time available, voting behavior, the number of meetings attended, leisure activities and interests, and various facets of alienation.

Spare Time. Even after retirement some people have no "spare time". Some care for invalided mates, or other relatives for whom they are responsible. Some are involved in a number of activities and have no spare time (in their view) for additional activities. Some oldsters have more time then they know what to do with. How much spare time do the Lexington respondents feel that they have? Seven and three-tenths percent of those who answered (232 persons) said they had no spare time at all and an additional 3.7% said they had less than one hour per day to spend as they wished. Interestingly enough, 57.7% said they had between 1 and 6 hours a day spare time and 31.9% said they had over 6 hours of spare time. Obviously, persons in this group do have time to devote to additional activities if they find the activities of sufficient interest.

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*Retirement Roles and Activites, White House Conference on Aging, (Washington, DC, USGPO, n.d.), p. 11.

**Robert C. Atchley, The Social Forces in Later Life, Belmont, California, Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1972), p. 340.

Voting Behavior. One means of continuing participation in community life is that of voting. One of the explanations for continued interest in political matters after retirement is that since certain role losses are societally rather than individually imposed, remaining roles may become more important. A person is not, after all, automatically disenfranchised at a particular older age.

Concern has been voiced by librarians that the elderly population might constitute a voting bloc. Such a voting bloc could exist as a part of a sub-culture of aging, a concept discussed by sociologist Arnold Rose* in which he sets forth criteria tending to show that the elderly in the population could be considered a subculture. Requisites for such a subculture are that (1) members have a positive affinity for each other on some basis and (2) the members are excluded from interaction with other groups to some significant extent. Evidence of the awareness of this concept may be found in Eleanor Phinney's article on "Library and the Aging"* in which she mentions the "danger in old people's organizing as an interest bloc, and of the impediment to progressive action embodied in a large voting group of ultra-conservative tendencies,..."

Atchley** feels that such a subculture as defined by Rose probably does not exist. First, older people belong to numerous interest groups, not necessarily based on age. Secondly, older persons generally remain in the community and house they lived in before retirement. For example, for the year 1970-71, only 5.4% of the population 65 to 74 moved to a different house in the same county and only 2.9% moved to a different county. For those 75 and over only 6.8 moved to a different county.*** Consequently, the aged are dispersed throughout the population rather than being physically isolated in the sense that they are non-age-segregated as they might be in retirement villages, or apartment complexes exclusively for the retired. Third, because of interaction with their children, they do have meaningful contacts across generational lines. In other words, age *per se* does not act as a consolidating factor. Thus, if such a subculture does not exist, it would be more difficult for a strong voting bloc to materialize.

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*Arnold M. Rose and Warren A. Peterson, Older People and Their Social Worlds: The Subculture of the Aging, (Philadelphia, PA, F.A Davis Co., 1965),p. 14.

*Library Journal, 78 (1953), pp. 1875-79.

** *Op. cit.*, Atchley.

***U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, DC, USGPO, 1973), p. 13.

That persons in older age groups do, in fact, vote in rather remarkable numbers, is borne out by national and regional figures as well as by the voting behavior of the respondents in the age groups contacted in Lexington. The following table shows the percent voting, 55 years of age and older, for all races in the United Stated and in the Southern Region of which Kentucky is a part.

### TABLE XI

### REPORTED VOTER PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS 55 AND OVER, ALL RACES BY SEX AND AGE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOUTHERN REGION, NOVEMBER, 1972

(Civilian non-institutional population)

| | PERCENT VOTING | |
|---|---|---|
| | UNITED STATES | SOUTHERN REGION |
| Both sexes, all ages | 63.0 | 55.4 |
| 55 to 64 years | 70.7 | 62.2 |
| 65 to 74 years | 68.1 | 60.1 |
| 75 years and over | 55.6 | 46.4 |
| Male | | |
| 55 to 64 years | 72.4 | 65.8 |
| 65 to 74 years | 73.2 | 65.7 |
| 75 years and over | 75.0 | 59.1 |
| Female | | |
| 55 to 64 years | 69.2 | 59.1 |
| 65 to 74 years | 64.3 | 55.9 |
| 75 years and over | 49.1 | 38.3 |

Source: Table 1, Reported Voter Participation and Registration of Persons of Voting Age, by Race, Spanish Origin, Sex and Age, for the United States and Regions, November, 1972 in the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 253, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November, 1972", (Washington, DC, USGPO, 1973), pp. 7-27.

As shown by Table XI, voting participation in the Southern Region drops off fairly sharply at age 75 and over, especially among females. Figures show that for both sexes and for females in both the United States and the Southern Region, the most active voting period occurs between 45 and 54 years of age. For males in the United Stated, interestingly enough, ages 75 and over showed that 75.0% voted, which was the highest percent of participation. In the Southern Region, males in the 55-64 age category voted slightly more frequently than those in the 45-54 age category (65.8% as compared to 65.2%).

So far as the Lexington respondents are concerned, 84.2% of the total of 279 stated that they voted in the last national election (November, 1972). Since 9 of the respondents failed to answer the voting question, the following voting by age cross-tabulation shows even higher percentages.

TABLE XII

PERCENTAGE OF LEXINGTON RESPONDENTS VOTING

IN 1972 NATIONAL ELECTION, BY AGE

| AGE | PERCENT VOTING |
|---|---|
| 55 to 64 years | 88.0 |
| 65 to 69 years | 88.6 |
| 70 to 74 years | 90.4 |
| 75 to 79 years | 75.5 |
| Over 80 | 89.5 |

The preceding table appears to show a rather remarkable participation. While some may have stated that they voted because they thought they should have, it is possible that the more politically active and interested tend to participate in more social activities and would be more likely to be included in such a survey as this.

Most Lexington respondents have means to get to the polls to vote--54.1% say they own their own cars; 49.8% say when they want to go some place they drive themselves there and an additional 25.7% say they have someone else drive them where they want to go. Busses or taxis are used by another 16.5%.

It is interesting to note that while causality is not necessarily implied, 92.0% have transportation available and 84.2% of the total said they voted.

While reasons for not voting were not asked of the Lexington respondents, it is obvious that active dislike of politics, lack of interest in politics or the inability to get to the polls could be considered strong reasons for not voting. The following table shows reasons for not voting in the United States for ages 55 and over:

The most acute reason for not voting given for the 65 and over age group as shown in Table XIII is inability to go to the polls. While in some cases this might be a rationalization for not voting, it nonetheless appears to be a real problem for people who might not, from an economic point of view, be able to afford transportation, or who, because of infirmity, are not longer able to drive.

As stated above, the Lexington respondents included in this survey seem amply supplied with means of getting to the polls, which may at least partially explain their high participation in voting activity.

Long and Lucioli suggest that "it is vital that we should not be handicapped in our progress in these fields (social and economic adjustment) by having to face an old age pressure group inherently opposed to innovation and *concerned only with its own security and comfort*".* The fear that the older age segment is concerned "only with its own security and comfort" is not borne out by a recent survey conducted by the American Association of Retired Persons.** Information on the felt needs of older persons was received from almost 70,000 members in late 1972. The major areas of concern were (1) inflation, (2) the high crime rate, (3) high taxes, (4) drug use and (5) decline in religious and moral values. None of these are exclusively concerns of the aged and are concerns reflected in national surveys which include all age groups. "Inadequate attention to the problems of the retired" was ranked eighth.

It would seem, therefore, fairly unlikely either that the elderly would form a voting bloc which would have influence disproportionate to the size of the aging segment or that if such strength existed that it would be used to promote programs or legislation "concerned only with its own security and comfort".

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*Fern Long and Clara Lucioli, "The Live Long and Like It Club: A Project in Adult Education for Older People." *Wilson Library Bulletin*, 23, (Dec., 1948).

**James A. Peterson, "Report on You", *Modern Maturity*, Vol. 16, No. 4, (Aug.-Sept., 1973), pp. 64-5.

## TABLE XIII

## REPORTED REASON NOT VOTING OF PERSONS WHO REPORTED THAT THEY WERE REGISTERED BUT DID NOT VOTE, BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE FOR THE UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER , 1972

(Civilian non-institutional population)

| AGE | REASONS FOR NOT VOTING | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| All Races | Not Interested | Dislike Politics | Unable to go to Polls |
| Both Sexes | | | |
| 55 - 64 years | 17.9 | 13.1 | 35.2 |
| 65 years and over | 8.5 | 7.8 | 56.3 |
| Male | | | |
| 55 - 64 years | 14.7 | 13.4 | 33.5 |
| 65 years and over | 10.7 | 10.3 | 51.6 |
| Female | | | |
| 55 - 64 years | 14.6 | 10.8 | 40.2 |
| 65 years and over | 7.2 | 6.2 | 59.3 |

Source: Table 18, Reported Reason Not Voting of Persons Who Reported That They Were Registered But Did Not Vote, By Age, Sex, and Race for the United States, November, 1972. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 253, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November, 1972", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 140.

Meetings. For most of the respondents, meetings of various kinds provide considerable community contact. Eighty-five and two-tenths percent had attended one or more meetings during the previous month. Thirty-one and nine-tenths percent attended between four and six meetings, and twelve and nine-tenths percent attended between seven and ten meetings the previous month. Thirty-one and nine-tenths percent attended between four and six meetings, and twelve and nine-tenths percent attended between seven and ten meetings the previous month. About 1 in 16 (6.1%) attended more than ten meetings during the month and seven and five-tenths percent did not attend any meetings during the previous month. Unless relevance of materials and services of the library can be established in connection with the subject matter of some of the meetings, competition for the time of persons involved in several meetings may not be successful. It seems easier to continue an activity already begun than to start a new one.

Leisure Activities. Greater numbers of activities should provide a wider base of interest in the materials and services a library has to offer. Respondents were asked to check the activities they had participated in during the last year not only to determine the extent of participation, but to indicate areas of interest upon which to build programs. The following table indicates those activities given the first three ranks among the activities listed.

## TABLE XIV

## LEISURE ACTIVITIES RANKED 1, 2, OR 3 FOR LEXINGTON GROUPS

| ACTIVITY | GROUPS COMBINED | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Take a vacation trip | 1 | 1t* | 2 | 1t | 1t | 2 | 1 | | |
| Church and volunteer work | 2 | 1t | 3 | 1t | 1t | | | 1 | 2t |
| Sewing | 3 | 1t | | | 2 | | | 3 | 3 |
| Yard work | | 2 | 1 | 3t | 3 | | 2 | 2 | |
| Go driving for pleasure | | 3 | 3t | | | 1 | 3 | | 2t |
| Attend plays or concerts | | | | 2 | | | | | |
| Bingo | | | | | | 3 | | | 1 |
| Play cards or other games | | | | | | | | | 2t |

* "t" indicates a tie in rank.

Group 1 = 22
Group 2 = 20
Group 3 = 22
Group 4 = 52
Group 5 = 65
Group 6 - 23
Group 7 = 39
Group 8 = 36

The most popular activity for the combined groups is taking a vacation trip. Church and volunteer work ranks second. Interpretation of the kinds of activities which are encompassed in this category are somewhat difficult and the item could have provided more information if it had been phrased in a more specific way. Sewing is shown as the third most popular activity.

The persons in Group 1 participated in an average of 6.7 activities per person during the last year.

The most frequently mentioned activities were taking a vacation, and church and volunteer work, and sewing, each mentioned by 72.7%. Yard work was mentioned by 68.2% and driving for pleasure was mentioned by 63.6%. For a more detailed description, see Table XV, which follows:

TABLE XV

LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in percent)

WHOLE GROUP

N = 279

| ACTIVITY | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Vacation | 58.6 |
| Church/volunteer work | 55.4 |
| Sewing | 49.3 |
| Driving | 47.5 |
| Yard work | 46.8 |
| Cards/games | 38.8 |
| Plays/concerts | 37.4 |
| Bingo | 29.9 |
| Movies | 26.3 |
| Listen to records | 23.7 |
| Attend sports | 23.4 |
| Singing group | 13.7 |
| Spend time at library | 13.7 |
| Jigsaw puzzles | 12.9 |
| Participate in sports | 12.6 |
| Musical instrument | 11.9 |

# TABLE XVI

# LEXINGTON

# LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in percent)

## GROUP 1

N = 22

| ACTIVITY | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Take a vacation | 72.7 |
| Sewing | 72.7 |
| Church/volunteer work | 72.7 |
| Yard work | 68.2 |
| Driving | 63.6 |
| Attend sports | 54.5 |
| Listen to records | 54.5 |
| Movies | 50.0 |
| Plays and concerts | 45.5 |
| Cards/games | 40.9 |
| Musical instrument | 31.8 |
| Time at library | 27.3 |
| Participate in sports | 18.2 |
| Jigsaw puzzles | 18.2 |
| Singing group | 9.1 |
| Bingo | 0.0 |

Group 2, a group of retired teachers, averaged 4.4 activities per person. The most frequently mentioned activity was yard work (73.7%). Taking a vacation was mentioned by 63.2% and church and volunteer work was mentioned by 52.6%. For a more detailed description of activities, see Table XVII.

## TABLE XVII

## LEXINGTON

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in percent)

## GROUP 2

N - 20

| ACTIVITY | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Yard work | 73.7 |
| Vacation | 63.2 |
| Church/volunteer work | 52.6 |
| Sewing | 42.1 |
| Plays/concerts | 42.1 |
| Driving | 36.8 |
| Movies | 36.8 |
| Attend sports | 36.8 |
| Cards/games | 26.3 |
| Time at library | 21.1 |
| Participate in sports | 15.8 |
| Musical instrument | 10.5 |
| Listen to records | 10.5 |
| Jigsaw puzzles | 5.3 |
| Bingo | 5.3 |
| Singing group | 0.0 |

Group 3 consisted of 22 persons, members of a national retired persons group.

The average number of activities per person was 6.6.

Taking a vacation and church and volunteer work tied for first rank, each being mentioned by 86.4%. Going to plays and concerts was mentioned by 77.3%. Yard work and taking drives for pleasure were each mentioned by 72.7%. For additional detail, see Table XVIII, which follows.

At a senior citizen's club, Group 4, taking a vacation and church and volunteer work tied for first rank. Sewing ranked second and yard work, third. The average number of activities was 5.6. For additional detail, see Table XIX, which follows.

# TABLE XVIII

# LEXINGTON

# LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in percent)

## GROUP 3

N = 22

| ACTIVITY | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Vacation | 86.4 |
| Church/volunteer work | 86.4 |
| Plays/concerts | 77.3 |
| Yard work | 72.7 |
| Driving | 72.7 |
| Sewing | 59.1 |
| Cards/games | 45.5 |
| Listen to records | 36.4 |
| Movies | 31.8 |
| Time at library | 27.3 |
| Jigsaw puzzles | 27.3 |
| Attend sports | 18.2 |
| Bingo | 18.2 |
| Participate in sports | 13.6 |
| Singing group | 9.1 |
| Musical instrument | 9.1 |

### TABLE XIX

### LEXINGTON

### LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in percent)

### GROUP 4

N = 52

| ACTIVITY | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Take a vacation | 64.2 |
| Church/volunteer work | 64.2 |
| Sewing | 62.3 |
| Yard work | 58.5 |
| Plays/concerts | 49.1 |
| Driving | 47.2 |
| Cards/games | 37.7 |
| Bingo | 35.8 |
| Movies | 28.3 |
| Singing group | 24.5 |
| Listen to records | 24.5 |
| Musical instrument | 18.9 |
| Attend sports | 17.0 |
| Jigsaw puzzles | 17.0 |
| Time at library | 11.3 |
| Participate in sports | 9.4 |

Group 5, consisting of persons living in a middle-income high rise for the elderly, averaged 3.7 activities per person. The most frequently mentioned activities were driving for pleasure, 53.2%, taking a vacation, 43.5%, and Bingo, 40.3%. For additional activities, see Table XX, which follows.

# TABLE XX

# LEXINGTON

# LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in percent)

## GROUP 5

N = 65

| ACTIVITY | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Driving | 53.2 |
| Vacation | 43.5 |
| Bingo | 40.3 |
| Cards/games | 38.7 |
| Sewing | 37.1 |
| Church/volunteer work | 37.1 |
| Singing group | 29.0 |
| Movies | 16.1 |
| Jigsaw puzzles | 14.5 |
| Listen to records | 14.5 |
| Plays/concerts | 12.9 |
| Yard work | 11.3 |
| Attend sports | 9.7 |
| Musical instrument | 8.1 |
| Participate in sports | 6.5 |
| Time at library | 4.8 |

The average number of activities participated in by members of Group 6 was 6.0 The group consisted of 23 persons, all members of an association of retired federal employees. Most frequently mentioned activities were taking a vacation, 87.0%. Church and volunteer work and driving for pleasure were mentioned by 60.9% of the respondents. See Table XXI for more details.

# TABLE XXI

# LEXINGTON

# LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in percent)

## GROUP 6

N = 23

| ACTIVITY | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Vacation | 87.0 |
| Yard work | 82.6 |
| Driving | 60.9 |
| Church/volunteer work | 60.9 |
| Cards/games | 56.5 |
| Plays/concerts | 52.2 |
| Attend sports | 43.5 |
| Movies | 34.8 |
| Participate in sports | 30.4 |
| Bingo | 30.4 |
| Sewing | 30.4 |
| Time at library | 21.7 |
| Listen to records | 21.7 |
| Musical instrument | 13.0 |
| Jigsaw puzzles | 8.7 |
| Singing group | 4.3 |

Group 7 consisted of 39 persons, all members of a church sponsored social group for senior citizens. The average number of activities participated in was 4.3. Church and volunteer work was the most frequently mentioned activity; yard work and sewing tied for second rank, and taking a vacation was mentioned third. For further detail, see Table XXII which follows.

Group 8 consisted of 36 persons who were residents of a high rise apartment building for the elderly. Bingo was the most frequently mentioned activity. This is somewhat deceptive, however, as the questionnaire was administered prior to the bingo games. Driving for pleasure, cards or other games and church and volunteer work tied for second place. The average number of activities participated in was 3.8.

### TABLE XXII

### LEXINGTON

### LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in percent)

### GROUP 7

N = 39

| ACTIVITY | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Church/volunteer work | 61.5 |
| Yard work | 59.0 |
| Sewing | 59.0 |
| Vacation | 56.4 |
| Plays/concerts | 38.5 |
| Cards/games | 33.3 |
| Driving | 25.6 |
| Attend sports | 25.6 |
| Listen to records | 20.5 |
| Movies | 17.9 |
| Time at library | 12.8 |
| Participate in sports | 10.3 |
| Musical instrument | 7.7 |
| Jigsaw puzzles | 7.7 |
| Singing group | 5.1 |
| Bingo | 2.6 |

## TABLE XXIII

## LEXINGTON

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in percent)

## GROUP 8

N = 36

| ACTIVITY | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Bingo | 68.6 |
| Driving | 37.1 |
| Cards/games | 37.1 |
| Church/volunteer work | 37.1 |
| Sewing | 34.3 |
| Vacation | 31.4 |
| Listen to records | 25.7 |
| Movies | 20.0 |
| Plays/concerts | 20.0 |
| Attend sports | 17.1 |
| Participate in sports | 14.3 |
| Yard work | 8.6 |
| Time at library | 8.6 |
| Jigsaw puzzles | 5.7 |
| Musical instrument | 2.9 |
| Singing group | 0.0 |

When Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient* is used to compare the average number of activities of the various groups with the percent of persons in the groups who had visitied the library during the last six months, the coefficient is .50 which shows a relatively weak positive association. Refer to Table XXIV, which follows:

## TABLE XXIV

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES AND LIBRARY USE

| GROUP | RANK | AVERAGE NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES | RANK | PERCENT WHO VISITED LIBRARY DURING LAST SIX MONTHS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 6.9 | 2 | 50% |
| 1 | 2 | 6.7 | (4) | 33.4 |
| 6 | 3 | 6.4 | 3 | 47.6 |
| 4 | 4 | 5.7 | 8 | 12.8 |
| 2 | 5 | 4.8 | 1 | 68.8 |
| 7 | 6 | 4.4 | (5) | 33.3 |
| 5 | 7 | 3.8 | (7) | 19.1 |
| 8 | 8 | 3.7 | (6) | 28.6 |

Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient or $r_s$=.50. This coefficient should be interpreted with extreme caution, due to the small number of cases.

Use of radio and TV. Two passive activities which provide formidable competition for library use are television viewing and listening to the radio. It is much easier to snap on the TV or radio than to read a book or bestir oneself to the library. Over four-fifths (83.5%) of the respondents watch TV and somewhat fewer, or 60.6%, say they listen to the radio. Almost two-thirds (62.3%) of those who watch say they spend between one and five hours a day watching, and ten persons (3.6%) say they spend in excess of six hours a day.

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*For an explanation of Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient, see Abraham N. Franzblau, A Primer of Statistics, (New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1958), pp. 123-4.

What are the main reasons people give for watching? "A national Inventory of Television Viewing Behavior" found that 32% watched for entertainment, 26% for relaxation and 18% admitted they watched only to "kill time".* Another study** found that "few turn on their sets for educational purposes" and that "only 10% mentioned information-seeking as a reason for watching TV". A study on news viewing found that the majority of the population (52% of the men and 54% of the women) reported they had not seen a national news program during the two-week period (Oct.-Nov., 1969) of the study.*** However, "both male and female regular news viewers are drawn disproportionately from older people in our society, regardless of their educational level or amount of overall viewing time".****

Alienation. If activities would seem to encourage library use, it also seems plausible that the opposite or societal alienation would be likely to discourage library use. In an effort to determine whether or not this is true of the respondents in Lexington, a five-item alienation scale was included in the questionnaire. Five of the six items included in Middleton's Alienation Scale***** were used. The statement "I don't really enjoy most of the work that I do, but I feel that I must do it in order to have other things that I need and want", was excluded since this study deals with retired persons and was not applicable. Remaining items included statements intended to measure powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, cultural estrangement and social estrangement.*

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*Leonard A. LaScioto, Television in Day-to-Day Life: Patterns of Use, Vol. IV (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, n.d.), p. 60.

**John P. Robinson, "Toward Defining the Function of Television", Ibid., p. 580.

***Harold Israel and John P. Robinson, "Demographic Characteristics of Viewers of Television Violence and New Programs", Television in Day-to-Day Life: Patterns of Use, Vol. IV, (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, n.d.), p. 102.

****Ibid., p. 107.

*****R. Middleton, "Alienation, Race and Education", American Sociological Review, 28 (1963), pp. 973-77, as described in Measures of Social Psychological Attitudes, by John P. Robinson and Phillip R. Shaver, (Ann Arbor, Michigan, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, August, 1969).

The questions were presented in an agree-disagree format. "Positive" answers were those in which the respondents disagreed with the statements. The form of the statements posed particular problems for those of lower educational attainment since in order to make a "positive" response, it was necessary to "disagree" with a negative statement. Consequently, there was a relatively high rate of non-response to these items.

When asked to respond to the statement "In order to get ahead in the world, you are almost forced to do some things which are not right", which is intended to measure normlessness, 64.5% disagreed.

To the statement on cultural estrangement, i.e., "I am not much interested in the TV programs, movies, or magazines that most people seem to like", 43.0% disagreed with the statement. Since 83.5% of the respondents said they watch TV and almost two-thirds say they watch between one and five hours a day, and 79.2% say they read magazines, it would seem that more persons should have disagreed. The objection could possibly have been aimed at movies rather than TV and magazines due to the wording of the question.

Thirty-six and nine-tenths percent disagreed with the statement "There is not much that I can do about most of the important problems that we face today". Voting could be considered a response to powerlessness--unless the voters feel that the vote really has no effect. Since such a high percentage of Lexington respondents vote, it seems plausible that more persons should have disagreed.

To the statement "Things have become so complicated in the world today that I really don't understand what is going on", 43.0% disagreed that the world is too complicated.

While the four above statements were presented in such a way that understanding might be difficult, the fifth item intended to measure social estrangement should have been easily understood even by those of low education. "I often feel lonely" is a simple, straightforward statement. Much resistance to answering this particular question was in evidence. Nonetheless, 52.0% disagreed that they often felt lonely. When a group of 2543 adults were asked to state their fears, less than one in five said they feared death, but 16% of all women and 11% of the men said they feared loneliness.**

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*For wording of these items, see Question 19, page 4, REV/4 of the Questionnaire, Appendix A.

**George H. Gallup, The Gallup Poll, Public Opinion, 1935-71, Vol. 3, 1959-71, (New York: Random House, 1972).

There is no way of determining whether those who failed to answer felt lonely often, but did not want to admit it. A number of husband-wife combinations were in attendance and it is possible of one admitted to being lonely, that it might reflect unfavorably on the other partner. Since the husband and wife usually sat together and thus could see how the other answered, some answers might have been adjusted accordingly.

Total scores on all five items ranged from 0 for a person who did not disagree with any of the five statements to a 5 for a person who disagreed with each of the five statements. Persons with scores of 0, 1, and 2 were considered to be more alienated than those who had scores of 3, 4, or 5. Only 11.1% of the respondents disagreed with all five statements, 20.8% disagreed with all but one statement, and 20.4% disagreed with three. Consequently, more than half or 52.3% were not considered to be highly alienated. Some of those remaining who had scores from 0 to 2 or alienated may be accounted for by virtue of non-answering since the items were scored in the positive direction.

It would appear from the following tabulation of high and low alienation scores with library use that at least with these respondents, those with high alienation scores are less likely to be library users than those with low alienation scores.

## Table XXV

## ALIENATION SCORE AND LIBRARY USE

| SCORE | NUMBER | LIBRARY USE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Non-Users | Infrequent Users and Users |
| High Alienation (0, 1, 2) | 90 | 80% | 20% |
| Low Alienation (3, 4, 5) | 126 | 45% | 55% |

## Life Satisfaction

Four areas of satisfaction were explored--happiness, satisfaction with housing, satisfaction with income and attitude toward retirement.

Happiness. When asked the question, "In general how happy would you say you are?", 55.9% of the respondents said they were very happy and 38.0% said they were fairly happy. Compared to a survey made in January, 1971, by the Gallup Poll, in which 38% of the adults fifty years old and older, said they were very happy and 50% said they were fairly happy,* the respondents were somewhat happier than the broader Gallup sample.

Housing Satisfaction. When asked whether they were satisfied with their housing arrangements, 84.6% of the Lexington respondents indicated satisfaction compared with only 74% of a national adult sample of 1505 made in September, 1973, by the Roper Public Opinion Research Center.** Only 3.2% of the Lexington respondents said they were dissatisfied compared to 23% of the national sample. In a report on an American Association of Retired Persons membership of 70,000 older persons 89% of the respondents were satisfied with their housing arrangements. Nonetheless, in terms of numbers, the survey estimates that a quarter of a million older Americans are unhappy over their housing.***

Income Satisfaction. As previously discussed under socio-economic characteristics, 62.7% of the respondents stated that they were satisfied with their income, while only 11,8% voiced dissatisfaction.

Attitude to Retirement. Only six (or2.2%) of the Lexington respondents stated that retirement was worse than expected. Thirty-four and four-tenths percent said retirement was about the same as they expected and 37.6% said retirement was better than expected. It might be well to keep in mind, however, that these people are fairly healthy (63.4% say they have good or excellent health) and relatively unrestricted as to activity (62.7% say they either are not limited in most of their activities).

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*Gallup Poll, January 14, 19721, p. 2280.

**Current Opinion, Vol. 2, Issue 1, (January, 1974), p. 9.

***James A. Peterson, "Report on You", Modern Maturity, Aug.-Sept., 1973, pp. 64-5.

When the Roper Public Opinion Research Center asked a national sample of adults what they considered to be the best stage of life, 24% named young adulthood, 36% named middle age, and 20% named retirement.*

## Library Us

Barriers to Library Use by Older Persons. While open stacks may be a boon to students who like to browse, this increasing accessibility to books may prove a distinct disadvantage to older persons. Physical handicaps, building barriers and felt personal inadequacies may combine to render library use just too demanding in terms of available energy for the rewards one might gain.

## Physical Handicaps

Vision. Since eye sufficiency has such direct bearing on the efficient use of the library, the questionnaire sought to establish possible shortcomings in eye care, and the extent of certain types of eye disease. This information might be eligible to receive "talking books" from the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically handicapped in Frankfort, Kentucky. Many persons with marginal handicaps (those not legally considered "blind") are not aware that this service may be available to them. Certain other aspects of "seeing" that might have a bearing on the "comfortable" use of the library are also included.

Ophthamologist generally recommend that eyes and eyeglasses be checked at least every two years. Ninety-six and one-tenth percent said they wear glasses when they read. Seventy-nine and six-tenths percent of the respondents said their eyes had been checked either by a doctor or at a clinic during the preceding two years; 70.3% by a doctor and 9.3% at a clinic. Consequently, almost 1 out of every 5 persons who wear glasses may be wearing glasses that no longer provide adequate correction. It is also possible that some who wear glasses do not wear prescription glasses--sometimes people just buy a pair of glasses at the dime store that helps them see a little better than they did before.

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*Current Opinion, Vol. 1, No. 6, (June, 1973), p. 59.

In a pilot program for vision screening in Dallas, Texas, 960 retired persons aged 40 to 103 were tested.* Of the total participants in the program, 32% had not had a vision examination for three years or more and 3.5% had never had one. Forty-one percent were referred to local vision care specialists for further diagnosis; 5.1% for suspected glaucoma, 5.2% for cataract evaluation and 1.5% for toher health problems detected through the eyes.

Four common causes of blindness (and if not blindness, at least reduced vision) in people over 65 are macular degeneration, cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy.** Macular degeneration is a fairly well pronounced opacity of the cornea, apparent as a grey spot. This condition affects 20% of the older population, and the average age of occurrence is 78. Cataracts, or clouding of the lens of the eye, affects about 17% of the older population and its average age of occurrence is 72. Cataracts cause a general decrease in vision as well as a decrease in the amount of light reaching the eye and results in an excessive glare in sunlight. Glaucoma affects about 13% of the older population, and its average age of occurrence is 73 years. Glaucoma, or elevated pressure within the eye, greatly affects peripheral vision. Eyedrops used to alleviate the condition constrict the pupil of the eye and thus reduces the amount of light getting into the eye. Diabetic retinopathy is a non-inflammatory disease of the retina as a result of a diabetic condition. This condition affects about 12% of the older population and its average age of occurrence is 60 years.

It is estimated that the number of blind people in the United States is about 380,000 or 19 per thousand. Legal blindness is defined as vision of 20/200 or less in the best eye and a visual field of 20 degrees or less. This means a person could read the big "E" on the eye chart at 20 feet, or be able to see a person's nose and ear at the same time. Such restricted vision would provide poor or mediocre ability to walk about. Assuming that four of five times the number of legally blind people have some visual impairment, it is possible that about 1.9 million older people, or 10 percent of the total elderly population might have significant vision problems. A person whose corrected vision is 20/50 or better rarely has much problem either in outside life or reading. If an individual has

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*Aging, No. 226, August, 1973, HEW, Office of Human Development, Administration on Aging, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 16.

**Leslie S. Libow, "Older People's Medical and Physiological Characteristics: Some Implications for Transportation", published in Transportation and Aging, Selected Issues, based on proceedings on the Interdisciplinary Workshop on Transportation and Aging, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1970), p. 14.

20/70 vision and an adequate field, he can get around pretty well. Often the person with only 20/200 vision can be enabled to read with magnification and a good light close to the reading material.*

In the question on eye disease included the questionnaire, only 8.6% stated they had cataract and 4.3% said they had glaucoma, a somewhat lesser figure than those cited by Libow. This is to be expected since it is likely that persons severely afflicted would be somewhat limited as to activities. Additionally, the respondent group includes a fairly large proportion of persons younger in age than the average age of occurrence of the various diseases mentioned.

Since cataracts cause a direct loss of light entering the eye, and glaucoma by means of the medications for its alleviation causes loss of light reaching the eye, both of these conditions could have a direct affect on the comfortable use of the library. After all, libraries are lighted for persons with "normal"vision. Generally speaking, older people require more light to see as well as younger persons. At age 45, it is estimated that illumination will have to be increased by 50 percent to reach optimum conditions of sharpness as compared with the light requirements of a 20 year old. By the late 50's a 100% increase in brightness is required and by age 80, an increase of three and a third times is necessary. Consequently, it is very likely that levels of lighting in most libraries is not sufficient for comfortable reading for persons 45 and older.** A possible solution might be a special reading area in which light intensities are increased. Merely increasing the amount of light is not the whole solution, however, as it must be attained without an increased amount of glare. Glare can distort or mute the outlines of objects thus increasing the difficulty of seeing.

While I have been unable to find any figures showing the numbers and ages of persons wearing bi-focals, there surely must be substantial numbers in the over 45 age group. Bi-focals pose a particularly awkward problem in "reading shelves". Generally, objects are in focus in an area between a few inches from the nose to a distance approximately arm's length. So far as acuity of vision is concerned, the area immediately beyond an arm's length may constitute a pretty fuzzy area. Objects generally return to focus at about 5 or 6 feet. Reading book titles and catalog numbers either must be done with one's nose almost on the back of the book (sometimes a difficult maneuver when the books are either at the top or bottom of the stack areas) or one must back up far enough to get in focus with the "distance" part of the glasses. This is sometimes impossible due to the width of the stack aisles. While alleviation of this particular difficulty may not be possible, it is one other aspect which makes open-stack library use for some people rather uncomfortable.

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*Don M. Gordon, "Eye Problems of the Aged, in Working With Older People, Clinical Aspects of Aging, Vol. IV, (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, Public Health Service, 1971), p. 28.

**From an unpublished paper arising from the Housing Group Participants at the White House Conference, by Jack Billingsley, p. 1.

Hearing. Hearing difficulties may also create a barrier to library use. Loss of hearing can mean loss of contact with life and may induce depression and withdrawal. About 30% of the persons in the 65-79 year age group suffer from some degree of hearing impairment. Unfortunately, advancing age produces a marked degree of hearing impairment--in fact, for ages 65-79 the rate of impairment is 40 times greater than for those 18-24 years of age.*

If a person needs an explanation for finding materials, the answer may not be loud enough or the words may run together or be distorted so as not to be understandable. This need for greater volume may be especially embarrassing to persons who feel they must either maintain absolute silence or not speak above a whisper in the library. While a hearing aid is definitely helpful, mere increase in volume may not solve the problem. Many whose hearing could be improved by a well fitted hearing aid do not take advantage of this correction since it is estimated that among those 45 years and over with hearing loss in both ears, only one person in five uses a hearing aid.**

Lipreading may also provide additional understanding. Nonetheless, in speechreading certain vocal sounds are not visible on the lips so a person reading lips receives a series of intermittent clues (through such "visible" sounds as (p), (b), (m), (f), and (v), together with facial expressions and bodily gestures to provide a meaningful interpretation. Have you ever tried to follow the conversation on television when the sound is turned off? It is a little like reading shorthand--a lot of material must be filled in. The same problems arise in providing audio/visual materials for this age segment--volume must be increased, speed of presentation decreased if possible and extraneous noises and distractions reduced to a minimum.

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*Health in the Later Years of Life, National Center for Health Statistics, (Rockville, Md., USGPO, 1971), p. 28.

**Ibid.

Arthritis and Orthopedic Defects. According to statistics from the National Health Center, almost 80% of the 65-79 year age group are afflicted with some degree of osteoarthritis, a degenerative joint disease which most often affects the hands and feet. In the 65 to 79 year age group, 50.3% of the men and 44.9% of the women in the United States are afflicted with a mild form of osteoarthritis.*

Thumbing through the card catalog looking for the necessary information to locate a book with fingers stiffened and painful from arthritis can prove a tiring and discouraging task. In larger libraries, a good deal of walking may be necessary to locate a book. This may be made difficult both by arthritis (as it affects the feet) and by orthopedic defects--impairments of limbs, back and trunk. In the 65 years and over group, 17.4 men per 100 suffer such disabilities, while 19.7 women are so afflicted.** The principal cause of these impairments is injury.

Orthopedic defects may take reaching up or stooping over difficult. When a patron finds the proper stack location for his book, the chances are two out of three that it will not be at waist level. Either the patron must bend down, head towards the floor, or reach or climb up on a stool (if one is readily available) to reach his book. Light levels at the top and bottom of the stacks may be inadequate, so it is difficult to locate the title or call number. Due to a lessened sense of balance or a reduced tactile sense in the extremities, either may result in a fall. Additional strength is often necessary to pull a book out of a tightly packed space, which could further contribute to the likelihood of losing one's balance.

Health and Physical Mobility. It would appear, both from the answers on the questionnaire, and from the attendance at the various group meetings, that the respondents contacted are generally unrestricted as to physical mobility and in relatively good health. Only 28.7% said they are limited in some of their activities, while 28.3% state they are not limited in any of their activities. Sixty-three and four-tenths percent felt themselves to be in either "excellent" or "good" health; 16.4% as excellent and 47.3% as good. Only 4.3% stated their health as "poor" and 30.5% felt their health was "fair".

Building Barriers. Many older public libraries are "Carnegie" buildings--and generally those buildings were designed to present a dignified and imposing public image. This image often included a fairly long flight of steps up to the front entrance. Also, the interiors were often designed with flights of steps between floors. About 22% of the persons 65 years and over have a heart condition which results in some activity limitation.* Climbing stairs may pose a severe limitation to those persons if other means of entering the building and gaining access to upper floors are not available.. Aged people should not be expected to climb more than one flight of stairs, and the maximum riser height hsould not exceed 7 inches. In fact, 4-6 inches may be preferable.

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*Ibid.

**Ibid., p. 29.

The inconvenience of outside stairs may be overcome by providing a ramp while the difficulty of the inside stairs may be circumvented by providing an elevator for the patrons' use. It is suggested, however, that large, easily visible signs at street level should indicate the ramp location. Elevator locations should be clearly designated, together with a designation that they can be used by the public. Automatic elevator doors should be timed to close more slowly. If possible, door handles should be large enough to be easily grasped.

Well cared for library floors are often highly polished. While this may be aesthetically pleasing, and a good maintenance procedure, glare from such a floor may reduce awareness of irregularities in thresholds, stairs, etc. Such a floor surface may also be slippery which increases the possibility of falling. Low gloss, non-skidwax may reduce both glare and slipperiness and produce an additional margin of safety. Some elderly women become bowlegged and walk with a waddling gait which results in their not placing their feet as securely against the floor. Carpeting may provide a more secure footing than a bare floor, gives some acoustical control, and has the additional advantage of reducing the likelihood of injury if someone does fall. Falls are not a minor problem in the 65 and over segment. Nearly 80,000 persons died in 1971 as a result of accidental injuries.** An additional 800,000 older people suffered disabling injuries lasting at least one day. Total accidents claimed 17,600 persons in the over 75 age group and 10,500 in the 65-74 age group. Although accounting for about 10% of the population, they accounted for 24% of all accidents. About half the fatal accidents were caused by falls, 26% of which occurred in public places and institutions.

One of the most disorienting architectural features in hospitals and nursing homes tends to be the halls as they seem to be the least differentiated and least identifiable areas. What does the library have in addition to its own hallways? Row upon row of stack areas whose location is defined primarily by catalog numbers. In some larger libraries it would be possible for an older person to become confused and "lost". Signs to indicate the direction of the exit might prove comforting.

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*Ibid., Table 8. Average Number and Percent Distribution of Persons with Limitation of Activity Due to Selected Chronic Conditions at Ages 45-64 and 65 and Over: United States, July 1965-June 1967. p.34.

**Aging, No. 219, (Jan., 1973), p. 14.

Bathrooms should be readily accessible on each floor with their locations clearly marked.

When one considers the comfort of older patrons who read in the library, lighting levels should be increased, at least in some limited areas, and temperatures should be increased to approximately 78 degrees Farenheit. (This temperature may not be possible considering the present energy shortage, but the suggested 68 degrees would be definitely uncomfortable.) Library chairs are often armless. In some of the libraries decorated in a "modern" style, chairs are relatively low as are reading tables, etc. With reduced leg strength, it may be difficult for an older person to rise without being able to push himself to a standing position against the arms of a chair. Exceptionally low chairs may be even more difficult for an older patron. Every effort should be made to remove or alleviate such building barriers as stairways, slippery floors, inadequate lighting and heating and unsuitable furniture.

## Personal Inadequacies

Probably the most basic inadequacy felt by the older patron is lack of education. For those 65 and over, median years of school completed for 1969-70 was 8.7, and only 28.2% were high school graduates. When one considers that illiteracy is defined as less than 5 years of education (and it is possible that even that grade level is too low), and that persons who left school 50 years ago may have lost reading skill due to non-use, increasing library service to that portion of the aging population is particularly difficult. Lexington respondents, however, show between 1-4 years of college as the median years of school completed, which should result in a greater percentage of library use.

Persons who have never or rarely used the library may be hesitant to admit they don't know how to use the library. Loss of various roles after retirement may be considered as societal reflection by some, and to chance rebuff in a volunteer activity could be considered further rejection. In some activities, a person can watch others and gauge his activities accordingly even if he had never participated before. It is difficult to see how a person could learn to use the library effectively without admitting he didn't know how to search for a book in the card catalog and have some explanation of the meaning of the classification numbers. Often, too, the circulation desk is manned by high school students or quite young persons and an older person may hesitate to ask a young person for help. Young people generally take library service for granted and they might not realize the difficulty an older person may have in learning what the library could provide.

Many of the barriers to library use by older persons may not be remediable--certain physical handicaps cannot be reduced, and it may not be possible to remove certain architectural barriers short of substantial building renovation or removal of library facilities to completely new quarters. Educational inadequacies, however, may be rendered less debilitating by classes designed to acquaint persons with the use of the library and an explanation of a number of the services the library might perform which do not necessitate learning through the written word, such as films, lectures, and demonstrations.

## Attitudes Toward the Library

A library attitude scale consisting of ten statements expressing commonly held beliefs about libraries and librarians was presented to the Lexington respondents. In some cases agreement with the statement constituted a "positive" answer while in others the "disagree" answer was considered the "positive" response. The following table shows the percentage of the respondents who gave positive responses to each of the ten statements. (Table XXVI on following page.)

More than 70% of the respondents agree that librarians can provide good books for a person to read and that librarians will help a person find what he is looking for. More than 60% feel that the library is a pleasant place to spend a few hours and that it provides a valuable community service. A little more than half (55.9%) feel that the library has programs helpful to people, and 50.9% disagreed that if a person were not an accomplished reader he shouldn't go to the library. Fewer than half of the respondents disagreed that librarians care more about books than people, and that the library is mostly for students. Forty-two and seven-tenths percent disagreed that it was too hard to find what you want in the library. In the areas covered by the negative statements, many persons in these older age groups appear to cling to attitudes that may have been more descriptive of public libraries attitudes and services some years back rather than at present. Public libraries have become increasingly more "people" rather

## TABLE XXVI

| STATEMENT | PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WHO GAVE A POSITIVE ANSWER | |
|---|---|---|
| | Agree | Disagree |
| The library is a pleasant place to spend a few hours. | 67.0 | |
| Librarians care more about books than they care about people. | | 48.4 |
| The library is mostly for students. | | 48.7 |
| The library provides a valuable service to the community. | 63.4 | |
| If a person cannot read well, there is no use goint to the library. | | 50.9 |
| Librarians can suggest good books for a person to read. | 70.6 | |
| Librarians will help a person find what he is looking for it he asks for help. | 70.3 | |
| It is too hard to find what you want in the library. | | 42.7 |
| The library is a place where you can only whisper, not talk aloud. | | 20.4 |
| The library has programs to help people. | 55.9 | |

than "book" oriented and public libraries have continually expanded the scope of their services to include pre-school children and numerous adult interest groups, as well as students. With the wider use of more sophisticated audio/visual materials, information and entertainment can be offered without the necessity of reading. So far as the difficulty of using the library is concerned, this obstacle can be overcome by simplified explanations for locating library materials.

It was anticipated that with the more lenient rules for ordinary speech in libraries that most persons would be aware of this change and that many respondents would disagree with the statement that one could only whisper in the library. Only 20.4% felt a person need not talk in whispers.

From the answers given to the statements, it would appear that a number of misconceptions are still held by many of the respondents. If some of the negative views could be alleviated, increased library use might result, as according to the following table, it appears that low library attitude scores are associated with a high degree of non-library use. On the other hand, a person who has a positive attitude towards the library (and thus a high library attitude score) would be more likely to be a library user than one who does not (Table XXVII).

## Library Use and Anticipated Use

Many people are uninformed regarding the scope of services the modern public library performs. In an effort to make persons aware of some of these services (by merely reading the question), a list was made and the respondent was asked whether he had ever used a particular service or if he would like to use a particular service. It comes as no surprise that the most frequently used service was checking out books (40.6% of the respondents had used this service). The next most frequently mentioned activity was going to the library to look up an answer to a special question, mentioned by 33.1% of the respondents. An additional 5.4% mentioned that they would like to participate in this activity. Sixteen and two-tenths percent have availed themselves of the telephone reference service for answers to questions. Sixteen and two-tenths percent had attended an art exhibit and 8.3% said they would like to do so. Only 7.9% had ever attended a talk or movie program. Whether this might indicate that the respondents prefer art exhibits to talk and movie programs, or whether the art exhibits are more frequent or better publicized is not known. Apparently, however, the art exhibits are attended by many in this group.

## TABLE XXVII

## LIBRARY ATTITUDE SCORE AND LIBRARY USE

| SCORE | NUMBER | PERCENT NON-USERS | PERCENT OF USERS AND INFREQUENT USERS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 - 3 | 45 | 91% | 9% |
| 4 - 7 | 63 | 75% | 25% |
| 8 - 10 | 108 | 56% | 44% |

Only 1.1% said they had ever borrowed a picture to hang on their wall at home, but 4.7% said they would like to use this service. This interest, in combination with the interest in art exhibits, might be used as a basis for talks on art appreciation and an accompanying display of art books which the library owns, and the pictures the library has to loan.

Twenty-three and four-tenths percent had visited a bookmobile and 5.8% would like to do so. Since Lexington is a large area and its main branch is located near downtown with limited parking space, it seems logical that bookmobile service may become even more popular as additional stops are scheduled in areas peopled by a large number of older persons.

Although 88.9% of the respondents said they read a newspaper nearly every day, only 20.9% have ever read a newspaper in the library. A likely explanation is that the local newspaper is the one most often read and no purpose would be served by going down to the library to read it. A large print newspaper, plus carefully selected out of state newspapers might be of some interest.

Seventy-nine and two-tenths percent of the respondents state that they read magazines; yet only 20.9% say they have ever read magazines in the library. Given the interest in reading magazines, it might be possible to encourage persons to begin to use the library through this medium, although only 1.8% said they would like to do so. Magazine subscriptions are relatively expensive and copies are usually read only once and discarded. Consequently, greater emphasis on reading a variety of magazines in the library once a month might be suggested, especially for those magazines not commonly found in every household, i.e., Arizona Highways with its beautiful landscapes, Audubon Magazine, Natural History, Car and Driver, Consumer Report, etc. For persons of limited reading skills and vocabulary, a number of magazines could convey information and aesthetic pleasure through illustrations and photographs.

The percentage of persons stating they read books is 86.8%. One-hundred fifteen of the book readers are non-users of library services. These persons may be considered "potentials".

Certain areas of library service appear to be desired by more persons than are at present using them--among these are using the shut-in service, listening to records, checking out films, using a microcard reader, checking out pictures and using talking books and cassettes. In the area of talking books, more publicity could be given the older age groups about what a "talking book" is, what the requirements for qualifying for this service are and how and where to apply. More information or publicity could be given on the holdings in large print books. A demonstration might be given on how to use a microcard reader and how to use a microfilm copier if one is available.

For more detailed information on the use of library services and anticipated use for the combined groups, see Table XXVIII which follows.

For detail on library use and anticipated use for each of the subgroups, refer to Table XXVIII which follows on page 350.

## Reading Interests

As an aid in the selection of reading materials of special interest to retired persons, respondents were questioned on the subject matter they preferred. A reading list which included both fiction and non-fiction areas was included. The following table shows book reading interests ranked first, second, or third in each group and in all groups combined. For all groups combined, the fiction category yielded short stories as rank 1, historical fiction as rank 2, and mysteries as rank 3. In the non-fiction category, religion ranked first; travel, second; current affairs, third.

So far as the separate groups are concerned, five groups ranked short stories first in the fiction category, while three additional groups gave historical fiction the first rank. Four groups ranked historical fiction as second and five of the eight groups ranked mysteries as their third choice.

In the non-fiction category, religion was accorded six first-place designations. Current affairs and homemaking were each chosen as second rank by three groups. Travel was ranked third by four groups. For additional detail on the combined groups, see Table XXIX which follows.

Additional detail on each of the eight subgroups is contained in Tables One to Sixteen which are included in Appendix A.

## TABLE XXVIII

## LEXINGTON

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in percent)

N = 279

| | WHOLE GROUP | |
|---|---|---|
| SERVICE | USED | ANTICIPATED |
| Check out books | 40.6 | 2.9 |
| Go to the Library to look up answer to a special question | 33.1 | 5.4 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 23.4 | 5.8 |
| Read magazines in the library | 20.9 | 1.8 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 20.1 | 2.2 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 16.2 | 8.3 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 16.2 | 7.2 |
| Use the copying machine | 8.3 | 8.6 |
| Check out books with special large print that is easier to read | 8.3 | 6.1 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 7.9 | 7.6 |
| Check the location on a library map of some place you've heard of but don't know where it is | 7.6 | 5.8 |
| Use the "shut-in" service where books are brought to people unable to go to the library | 5.8 | 7.2 |
| Listen to records | 4.0 | 6.5 |
| Check out a film for use with some activity | 3.6 | 5.4 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 2.2 | 5.0 |
| Use a microcard reader | 1.8 | 2.9 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 1.1 | 4.7 |

## TABLE XXIX

## LEXINGTON

## READING INTEREST PROFILE

N = 278 (217 read books) (in percent) WHOLE GROUP

| BOOKS | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| **Fiction** | |
| Short Stories | 37.8 |
| Historical | 35.6 |
| Mysteries | 24.8 |
| Humor | 23.7 |
| Romance | 20.9 |
| Adventure | 19.1 |
| Animal Stories | 10.4 |
| Westerns | 7.6 |
| Science Fiction | 7.2 |
| **Non-Fiction** | |
| Religion | 50.4 |
| Travel | 28.4 |
| Current Affairs | 28.1 |
| History | 27.7 |
| Homemaking | 24.1 |
| Biography | 23.4 |
| Nature | 19.1 |
| Poetry | 15.8 |
| Philosophy | 11.2 |
| Art | 11.2 |
| About Music | 11.2 |
| Business | 6.8 |
| Science | 6.1 |
| Plays | 5.4 |

In a study of reading and library use in Lexington during 1963-1964* in which 9.7% of the respondents were 66 years of age or over and of which 7.5% of the men and 4.1% of the women said they were retired, the following types of books were mentioned as "most liked":

1 - Historical books
2 - Biography
3 - Mysteries
4 - Religious books
5 - Love stories

Even though the choices were not made exclusively by retirees, the first four types of books were rated highly by the retired groups in this study. Romance (or love stories) was chosen as first by one group and second by one other. It seems possible, therefore, (at least from this one indication) that the reading interests of retired persons are not markedly dissimilar to those of a larger adult population. Another explanation is that adult reading interests do not change drastically upon retirement but carry over into the retirement years.

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*Dennis E. Poplin, Reading and Library Use in Lexington, Kentucky, (Lexington, Kentucky, Bureau of Community Services, University of Kentucky, November, 1964), p. 41.

## THE UP INDEX APPLIED TO LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

In an effort to predict the number of persons contacted who might most readily become library users, a 7-item index (hereinafter referred to as the User Potential or UP Index) has been constructed. It is assumed that the greater the cumulative score on the UP Index, the more likely it is that the person with such a score would be a library user. Those having scores in the middle ranges would be more likely to be infrequent users of the library and those with low scores would be most likely to be non-users of library services. Interpretation is complicated somewhat by non-responses to the library-oriented questions. However, it is assumed that this failure to answer indicates a lack of interest and such answers are given an accordingly low score.

If a respondent lacked the necessary education to use the library, if he were highly alienated, if he neither read books nor enjoyed reading, and if he had never, up to this point in his life, used the library, it is highly unlikely that he would begin to use the library after retirement. However, if he had the necessary education and liked reading books, if he had used the library even very infrequently, it is more likely that he might establish the habit of using the library (especially if programs were especially chosen to fit his needs and interests). Alternatively, if he enjoyed reading, had never used the library but had a negative attitude to the library, the solution might be an attempt to increase community appreciation and awareness of the services the library can provide.

The UP Index consists of the following components:

1. Highest level of education
2. Subjective attitude to happiness
3. Alienation score
4. Enjoyment of reading
5. Book reading
6. Former library use
7. Library attitude score

Each of the above components is believed to contribute to the likelihood of library use. The cross-tabulation of library use with education shows that the greatest increase in library usage occurs in conjunction with some college education. Consequently, college education and graduate education are weighted somewhat more heavily than elementary or high school education. With regard to the subjective attitude to happiness, it is felt that new or renewed experiences would be more likely to be acceptable if a person were generally happy with his situation. If a person has a low alienation score, his orientation would more likely be outward and library use might therefore be of more value to him in expanding his outlook and explaining his problems. Obviously, if a person just does not enjoy reading, he would not be very likely to use the library. Interestingly enough, though, with the advent of audio/visual equipment, persons who are not necessarily "readers" may be able to be informed and entertained through library programs in ways that were not heretofore possible. Since most people do not go to the library to read newspapers or magazines, the most likely candidates for library use would be book readers. Since learning to use the library does take some effort on the part of the patron to use the library effectively, it is felt that if such library use were not an entirely new experience, there would be less resistance to using the library. After all, it may be difficult to start something entirely new after retirement. Finally, how a person feels about the library and its services would have some bearing on whether or not it were used. The potential patron may have had unpleasant experiences in his earlier years when he tried to use the library. Libraries have changed in attitude and improved and expanded services in the last twenty years or so and are now (generally speaking) more service and less custodial oriented places. Initial reluctance might have to be overcome by some kind of orientation in the use of the library and an assurance of a friendly and helpful welcome of the older patron by the library staff.

The following table indicates scoring used in the UP Index together with the locations of the component parts on two revisions of the questionnaire. (Refer to Forms 3 and 4 of the questionnaire as shown in Appendix A.)

A cross-tabulation of the scores of individuals on the UP Index with library use resulted in the following table.

It can be seen that 38 of 42 library users have scores between 8 and 15. Fifty-seven and six-tenths of the persons scoring between 12 and 15 points are either library users or infrequent users. Of those with scores between 8 and 11, 32% are users or infrequent users, while those with scores below 7 show that only 10.2% are users or infrequent users. Only 14 persons with scores below 7 are library users. Thus it can be seen that high scores appear to be associated with library usage, itermediate scores with use and infrequent use, and low scores primarily with non-users.

When determining a realistic target group for increase in library services, generally speaking, the older population who might use the library will be reduced by:

(1) those over 75 years of age since their level of activity may be sharply reduced;

(2) those who have less than an 8th grade education;

(3) those who are afflicted with physical handicaps or chronic conditions which result in a number of days of restricted activity;

(4) those who are institutionalized;

(5) those who are unable to get to the library due to lack of transportation.

Given these restrictive conditions, the total number of older persons in any service area could not be considered potential library users. Nonetheless, some persons in categories (3), (4), and (5) may still become library patrons through the medium of specialized outreach programs.

It is anticipated that it would be easier to motivate persons with high and intermediate scores who are non-users to become users of library services. These would include the 25 persons with scores between 12 and 15 and the 53 persons with scores between 8 and 11. It is further anticipated that it might be easier to induce those infrequent users with intermediate and high scores to use the library more frequently. Thus there would be 78 "potentials" in the non-user category and 21 in the infrequent user category. Accordingly, a realistic target group for these respondents would be between not more than 99. If success of the program is judged only by the percentage of total respondents they attract, a danger exists that the response might be considered "unsuccessful" when, in fact, the program may have attracted a considerable proportion of the "potentials". If we further consider that not all "potentials" would become library users under even the most propitious of circumstances, and if we consider that only about one-third of the respondents are library users, additional programs might be considered successful if approximately 30 persons responded to the particular programs.

Consequently, judgment of program success should be cautiously interpreted in light of the attributes of the respondents.

## Summary

It must be pointed out that the Lexington respondents are doubly self-selected--first, because by their own choice they are members of groups and second, because they agreed to participate in the survey. Additionally, it must be remembered that they are mostly women, fairly well-educated, healthy, mobile, and predominantly white collar workers. Most participate in a number of social activities and in general, they are happy, satisfied with their income and housing arrangements and find their retirement situation either about the same or better than they expected. Even though the respondents have many attributes favorable to the use of the library, the User Potential Index indicates that slightly less than half of the respondents are considered to be "potential" users of library services either through non-users beginning to use the library, or by increasing use by infrequent users attracted perhaps by new outreach programs.

# POSSIBLE PROGRAMS FOR LEXINGTON

The preliminary data from the user/non-user survey shows that the greatest percentage of the elderly in the sample prefer, first, to read fictional short stories and, secondly, historical fiction. Six groups out of the eight surveyed mentioned short stories as a first or second choice of fictional reading, and seven groups mentioned historical readings as a first or second choice. Fictional mysteries obtained the third highest percentage, and fictional humor, romance, and adventure followed closely behind.

In the non-fictional subjects, religion was cited most often by the groups as their favorite reading interest--50.4% of the 217 readers enjoyed reading religious materials. Travel and current affairs were considered (in percentages) the next most popular non-fiction subject areas; three of the eight groups chose current affairs as either their first or second preference in the non-fictional area. History and homemaking respectively followed travel and current affairs as a preference in non-fictional reading interests, and biography as a favorite reading interest was close behind these two subjects. Other non-fiction reading interest (in their percentage rank order) were nature, poetry, philosophy, art, music, business, science, and plays.

The most popular leisure time activity was shown to be taking a vacation for 58.6% of the 278 elderly surveyed who mentioned this activity, and six of the eight groups mentioned it as a first or second preference. Church or volunteer work received the next highest percentage, with 55.4% mentioning this as a leisure time activity and four groups mentioned this type of activity as a first or second preference.* Sewing received the third highest percentage ranking, and three groups mentioned this as a first or second preference. Driving was ranked fourth in percentages and two groups chose it as either a first or second preference. Yard work was ranked fifth and four groups chose it as a first or second preference for their leisure time activities. The remaining activities mentioned are shown in their percentage rank order: cards/games; plays/concerts/ bingo; movies; listen to records; attend sports; singing; spend time at the library; jigsaw puzzles; participate in sports; and playing a musical instrument.

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*This is probably a methodological error, since volunteer work can be carried out in community areas outside of churches. In this demonstration area, however, it is probably essentially valid.

The questionnaire included items on anticipated library use. Four groups out of the eight surveyed had a high potential for attending an art exhibit at the library. Also four groups showed a high potential for using the copy machine at the library. Three groups showed a high potential in using shut-in service. Other services with a high potential use by the elderly that were mentioned are telephone service at the library for an answer to a question, looking up an answer to a question at the library, attending a talk or movie show at the library, using library maps, borrowing a picture for the home, and visiting a bookmobile.

Since the Lexington Public Library maintains some book deposits at centers which are readily accessible to the elderly, it would be worthwhile to check the type of materials kept at each site to see if they coincide with the results of the survey. Since statistics on reading interest and leisure activities are kept for the elderly groups separately, each collection could be checked individually in accordance with the group's preference.

The librarians' proposal of establishing an oral history program seems to be in agreement with the survey conducted. Historical fiction and non-fictional history were mentioned as two of the preferred reading interests of the elderly. Since the library does have cassette recorders and the librarians have had experience in taping interviews, this would be in their favor when trying to start an oral history program. With the addition of NRTA/AARP KLP's project's audio/visual equipment, the elderly people could video-tape the element of sight to be added to the program. An oral history hour could be held at branch libraries once a week, and young school children could be invited to listen. This would provide an intergenerational social experience as well as an educational experience for the children.* The older adults would enjoy the social experience and feel as if they are contributing something worthwhile to the community. The branch would be a most ideal location, because of its obvious architectural features, its desirable location near public transit, and because the audio/visual equipment is on-site and stationary. School age children would be most desirable because of their familiarity of history from learning it in school and their development of self-discipline and length of attention span--pre-school children would be too hard to manage.

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*This is an anticipation of the Generations Alliance Program of AARP prior to its official articulation.

Another reading interest mentioned often by the elderly surveyed is current affairs. Another intergenerational program that could be developed covering this area of interest is a discussion of current affairs between the older people and a high school group. This activity could be similar to Boston's "Never Too Late Group's" program with Roslindale High School Debating Club.* Part of this program could be the keeping of a bulletin board which is divided into sections of politics or government, national news, international news, humanities and the arts, business, and health. Each older person could be responsible for updating a section on the bulletin board every week. Since there are numerous resource people in Lexington, it might be interesting to invite a speaker from one of the colleges to talk on a subject in current affairs and then have a discussion period follow immediately afterwards. Perhaps, these sessions could be videotaped and shown to other elderly groups who did not participate at a later date.

An extension of the Lexington Library's shut-in service seems to be a logical result of the data collected from the survey (high potential in anticipated use) and the comments made by two librarians in the extension service department. The American Red Cross's Project Fund might be helpful in identifying more elderly shut-ins. Since the library has done an excellent job to establish book collections in many centers for the elderly the possibility of expanding these book deposits to smaller church related or homemaker groups like the Young at Heart Club would be a likely next step.

Since many of the elderly enjoy reading religious materials, the library could develop a reading list of religious materials for the elderly. These lists could be compiled by consulting various priests or ministers in the community or the Kentucky Interfaith Aging Project. Another program that could help the elderly community would be to sponsor a workshop on aging for religious personnel similar to the one held at the Miami Public Library.

Since many of the elderly surveyed expressed a desire to attend more art exhibits at the library and the University of Kentucky has a special art class for Donovans scholars, a likely original program would be to have an art exhibit of elderly painters. The exhibit could be set up to publicize the library's book collection on painting and their picture loan collection in which the elderly express an interest.

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*Another indication pointing to the validity of the Generations Alliance Program of AARP.

Almost 59% of the elderly surveyed mentioned that they have taken a vacation in the last year. A travelogue program using the slides or pictures that were taken on the elderly people's vacation appears to be appealing to older adults. At least two of the groups showed a high potential anticipating a library travel talk or film program.

Two other frequent leisure activities mentioned by the elderly were driving and yard work. The library could provide a program on nature which would consider these two areas. A series of talks on Kentucky wild life, flowers and trees in Kentucky, ecology, bird watching, animal tracking, or scenic areas of the state could be scheduled every other week. Films, videotapes, and slides could complement the talks as well as appropriate book displays on the related topics.

Finally, homemaking was mentioned as a popular reading subject by at least three of the groups and sewing was mentioned as a popular leisure time activity. Two program possibilities come to mind in this area. One would be an educational consumer program like the Consumer Service Program given at Roddenbery Memorial Library; another would be hobby shows sponsored by the library to exhibit the older women's handwork. Appropriate book displays could be set up at the exhibit showing library materials that are available about this hobby as well as other hobbies. The library could contact the local homemaker groups, the local chapter of NRTA, AARP, the Bluegrass Senior Citizens Group, the residents in Emerson Center, the Young at Heart Club, and the residents of Connie Griffith Manor and the Extension Service at the University of Kentucky for suggestions of possible exhibitors or co-sponsors.

# APPENDIX A

## TABLES ONE TO SIXTEEN

## LEXINGTON

## LEXINGTON

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)
GROUP 1

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Read magazines in library | 54.5 | 4.5 |
| Look up answer to question | 54.5 | 13.6 |
| Read Newspapers | 50.0 | 4.5 |
| Visit bookmobile | 40.9 | 0.0 |
| Attend art exhibit | 22.7 | 27.3 |
| Use copying machine | 18.2 | 18.2 |
| Telephone for answer to question | 13.6 | 27.3 |
| Use library maps | 9.1 | 9.1 |
| Attend talk/movie program | 9.1 | 13.6 |
| Check out film | 4.5 | 18.2 |
| Borrow picture for home | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| Check out books | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Check out "talking books" | 0.0 | 9.1 |
| Use "shut-in" service | 0.0 | 9.1 |
| Check out large print books | 0.0 | 4.5 |
| Use microcard reader | 0.0 | 4.5 |

# LEXINGTON

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)
GROUP 2

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 68.4 | 0.0 |
| Look up answer to question | 57.9 | 0.0 |
| Read magazines | 47.4 | 5.3 |
| Read newspapers | 36.8 | 5.3 |
| Use copying machine | 26.3 | 0.0 |
| Attend art exhibit | 26.3 | 0.0 |
| Telephone for answer to question | 21.1 | 0.0 |
| Use library maps | 21.1 | 0.0 |
| Visit bookmobile | 21.1 | 0.0 |
| Attend talk or movie program | 15.8 | 0.0 |
| Listen to records | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| Check out films | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Borrow picture for home | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Check out "talking books" | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Use "shut-in" service | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Check out large print books | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Use microcard reader | 0.0 | 0.0 |

## LEXINGTON

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)
GROUP 3

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 68.2 | 4.5 |
| Look up answer to question | 45.5 | 13.6 |
| Read magazines | 31.8 | 4.5 |
| Read newspapers | 27.3 | 9.1 |
| Telephone for answer to question | 27.3 | 9.1 |
| Visit bookmobile | 27.3 | 0.0 |
| Attend talk or movie program | 22.7 | 9.1 |
| Attend art exhibit | 18.2 | 13.6 |
| Use library maps | 18.2 | 4.5 |
| Use copying machine | 9.1 | 18.2 |
| Check out large print books | 9.1 | 4.5 |
| Check out films | 4.5 | 9.1 |
| Borrow picture for home | 4.5 | 9.1 |
| Check out "talking books" | 4.5 | 9.1 |
| Use "shut-in" service | 4.5 | 0.0 |
| Use microcard reader | 0.0 | 4.5 |

## LEXINGTON

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)
GROUP 4

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 34.0 | 0.0 |
| Visit bookmobile | 28.3 | 0.0 |
| Look up answer to question | 26.4 | 3.8 |
| Attend art exhibit | 18.9 | 5.7 |
| Telephone for answer to question | 17.0 | 1.9 |
| Read magazines | 17.0 | 0.0 |
| Read newspapers | 17.0 | 0.0 |
| Check out large print books | 13.2 | 1.9 |
| Use copying machine | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Attend talk or movie program | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Check out films | 7.5 | 3.8 |
| Listen to records | 5.7 | 3.8 |
| Use library maps | 5.7 | 5.7 |
| Check out "talking books" | 5.7 | 3.8 |
| Use "shut-in" service | 5.7 | 7.5 |
| Use microcard reader | 5.7 | 1.9 |
| Borrow picture for home | 1.9 | 5.7 |

## LEXINGTON

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)
GROUP 5

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 25.8 | 8.1 |
| Look up answer to question | 25.8 | 3.2 |
| Visit bookmobile | 14.5 | 12.9 |
| Use "shut-in" service | 12.9 | 12.9 |
| Check out large print books | 12.9 | 12.9 |
| Telephone for answer to question | 12.9 | 4.8 |
| Attend art exhibit | 11.3 | 4.8 |
| Read magazines | 9.7 | 1.6 |
| Read newspapers | 9.7 | 3.2 |
| Use library maps | 9.7 | 6.5 |
| Attend talk or movie program | 8.1 | 6.5 |
| Use copying machine | 6.5 | 6.5 |
| Listen to records | 4.8 | 6.5 |
| Check out films | 1.6 | 4.8 |
| Check out "talking books" | 1.6 | 4.8 |
| Borrow picture for home | 0.0 | 4.8 |
| Use microcard reader | 0.0 | 4.8 |

## LEXINGTON

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)
GROUP 6

| Serivce | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 69.6 | 4.3 |
| Look up answer to question | 65.2 | 4.3 |
| Read newspapers | 39.1 | 0.0 |
| Read magazines | 30.4 | 4.3 |
| Visit bookmobile | 26.1 | 17.4 |
| Attend art exhibit | 17.4 | 21.7 |
| Telephone for answer to question | 17.4 | 21.7 |
| Use copying machine | 8.7 | 21.7 |
| Check out films | 4.3 | 8.7 |
| Use microcard reader | 4.3 | 0.0 |
| Listen to records | 0.0 | 8.7 |
| Attend talk or movie program | 0.0 | 21.7 |
| Use library maps | 0.0 | 17.4 |
| Borrow picture for home | 0.0 | 4.3 |
| Check out "talking books" | 0.0 | 4.3 |
| Use "shut-in" service | 0.0 | 4.3 |
| Check out large print books | 0.0 | 4.3 |

## LEXINGTON

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)
GROUP 7

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 33.3 | 0.0 |
| Look up answer to question | 23.1 | 2.6 |
| Visit bookmobile | 20.5 | 5.1 |
| Attend art exhibit | 15.4 | 5.1 |
| Telephone for answer to question | 15.4 | 5.1 |
| Read magazines in library | 10.3 | 0.0 |
| Read newspapers | 7.7 | 0.0 |
| Listen to records | 5.1 | 5.1 |
| Check out films | 5.1 | 2.6 |
| Use library maps | 5.1 | 5.1 |
| Use copying machine | 2.6 | 5.1 |
| Attend talk or movie program | 2.6 | 5.1 |
| Check out large print books | 2.6 | 5.1 |
| Borrow picture for home | 0.0 | 7.7 |
| Check out "talking books" | 0.0 | 10.3 |
| Use "shut-in" service | 0.0 | 2.6 |
| Use microcard reader | 0.0 | 2.6 |

## LEXINGTON

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)
GROUP 8

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 17.1 | 0.0 |
| Visit bookmobile | 17.1 | 2.9 |
| Read newspapers | 14.3 | 0.0 |
| Look up answer to question | 14.3 | 8.6 |
| Check out large print books | 14.3 | 5.9 |
| Read magazines | 11.4 | 0.0 |
| Use "shut-in" service | 11.4 | 11.4 |
| Attend art exhibit | 8.6 | 2.9 |
| Attend talk or movie program | 5.7 | 2.9 |
| Use copying machine | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| Listen to records | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| Check out "talking books" | 2.9 | 0.0 |
| Use microcard reader | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| Check out films | 0.0 | 2.9 |
| Use library maps | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Borrow picture for home | 0.0. | 0.0 |

## LEXINGTON

## READING INTEREST PROFILE

## GROUP 1

N = 22

| SUBJECT | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Historical | 54.5 |
| Humor | 36.4 |
| Short Stories | 31.8 |
| Mysteries | 22.7 |
| Romance | 18.2 |
| Adventure | 13.6 |
| Science Fiction | 9.1 |
| Animal Stories | 4.5 |
| Westerns | 0.0 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Religion | 63.6 |
| Homemaking | 59.1 |
| Biography | 50.0 |
| Travel | 31.8 |
| Nature | 31.8 |
| Philosophy | 27.3 |
| Poetry | 27.3 |
| History | 22.7 |
| Art | 18.2 |
| Science | 13.6 |
| About Music | 13.6 |
| Current Affairs | 13.6 |
| Business | 9.1 |
| Plays | 9.1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Read Books | 90.9%(20) |
| Median Age | 55 - 64 |
| Median Education | 1 - 4 years of college |

## LEXINGTON

## READING INTEREST PROFILE

## GROUP 2

N = 20

| SUBJECT | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Historical | 78.9 |
| Short Stories | 47.4 |
| Adventure | 42.1 |
| Mysteries | 42.1 |
| Romance | 31.6 |
| Humor | 31.6 |
| Science Fiction | 10.5 |
| Westerns | 5.3 |
| Animal Stories | 5.3 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Biography | 57.9 |
| History | 57.9 |
| Current Affairs | 52.6 |
| Religion | 47.4 |
| Travel | 36.8 |
| Nature | 31.6 |
| Poetry | 31.6 |
| Homemaking | 21.1 |
| About Music | 21.1 |
| Philosophy | 10.5 |
| Science | 10.5 |
| Art | 10.5 |
| Business | 5.3 |
| Plays | 5.3 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Read Books | 95.0%(19) |
| Median Age | 70 - 74 |
| Median Education | 1 - 4 years graduate school |

# LEXINGTON

## READING INTEREST PROFILE

## GROUP 3

N = 22

| SUBJECT | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Historical | 63.6 |
| Short Stories | 40.9 |
| Mysteries | 31.8 |
| Humor | 18.2 |
| Adventure | 13.6 |
| Animal Stories | 13.6 |
| Romance | 9.1 |
| Science Fiction | 9.1 |
| Westerns | 4.5 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Religion | 63.6 |
| History | 50.0 |
| Travel | 45.5 |
| Biography | 40.9 |
| Current Affairs | 31.8 |
| Philosophy | 22.7 |
| Plays | 18.2 |
| Homemaking | 13.6 |
| Nature | 13.6 |
| About Music | 13.6 |
| Art | 9.1 |
| Poetry | 9.1 |
| Business | 4.5 |
| Science | 4.5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Read Books | 90.9%(20) |
| Median Age | 65 - 69 |
| Median Education | 1 - 4 years of college |

# LEXINGTON

## READING INTEREST PROFILE

## GROUP 4

N = 52

| SUBJECT | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Short Stories | 45.3 |
| Historical | 35.8 |
| Mysteries | 30.2 |
| Romance | 24.5 |
| Adventure | 22.6 |
| Humor | 22.6 |
| Westerns | 11.3 |
| Animal Stories | 11.3 |
| Science Fiction | 9.4 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Religion | 52.8 |
| Current Affairs | 32.1 |
| Travel | 30.2 |
| Poetry | 24.5 |
| History | 22.6 |
| Homemaking | 22.6 |
| Nature | 22.6 |
| Art | 20.8 |
| About Music | 20.8 |
| Biography | 17.0 |
| Philosophy | 11.3 |
| Business | 5.7 |
| Science | 5.7 |
| Plays | 5.7 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Read Books | 76.9%(40) |
| Median Age | 70 - 74 |
| Median Education | 1 - 4 years high school |

## LEXINGTON

## READING INTEREST PROFILE

## GROUP 5

N = 65

| SUBJECT | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Short Stories | 29.0 |
| Romance | 24.2 |
| Humor | 19.4 |
| Historical | 16.1 |
| Mysteries | 12.9 |
| Westerns | 11.3 |
| Animal Stories | 11.3 |
| Adventure | 9.7 |
| Science Fiction | 6.5 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Religion | 53.2 |
| Current Affairs | 25.8 |
| Homemaking | 19.4 |
| History | 17.7 |
| Nature | 16.1 |
| Biography | 12.9 |
| Travel | 12.9 |
| Poetry | 12.9 |
| About Music | 8.1 |
| Business | 4.8 |
| Philosophy | 4.8 |
| Art | 3.2 |
| Science | 1.6 |
| Plays | 1.6 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Read Books | 67.7% |
| Median Age | 70 - 74 |
| Median Education | 1 - 4 years high school |

# LEXINGTON

# READING INTEREST PROFILE

# GROUP 6

N = 23

| SUBJECT | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Short Stories | 56.5 |
| Historical | 47.8 |
| Humor | 47.8 |
| Mysteries | 26.1 |
| Adventure | 21.7 |
| Romance | 13.0 |
| Science Fiction | 13.0 |
| Animal Stories | 13.0 |
| Westerns | 0.0 |
| Nonfiction | |
| History | 52.2 |
| Travel | 47.8 |
| Current Affairs | 43.5 |
| Religion | 26.1 |
| Science | 26.1 |
| Nature | 26.1 |
| Biography | 21.7 |
| Philosophy | 13.0 |
| Art | 13.0 |
| Business | 8.7 |
| Poetry | 8.7 |
| Homemaking | 4.3 |
| Plays | 4.3 |
| About Music | 4.3 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Read Books | 82.6%(19) |
| Median Age | 70 - 74 |
| Median Education | 1 - 4 years of college |

# LEXINGTON

## READING INTEREST PROFILE

## GROUP 7

N = 39

| SUBJECT | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Short Stories | 43.6 |
| Historical | 30.8 |
| Mysteries | 23.1 |
| Humor | 23.1 |
| Adventure | 20.5 |
| Romance | 17.9 |
| Animal Stories | 10.3 |
| Westerns | 2.6 |
| Science Fiction | 2.6 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Religion | 51.3 |
| Homemaking | 28.2 |
| Travel | 25.6 |
| History | 25.6 |
| Biography | 23.1 |
| Current Affairs | 20.5 |
| Nature | 15.4 |
| Poetry | 12.8 |
| Business | 10.3 |
| Philosophy | 10.3 |
| Art | 7.7 |
| Plays | 7.7 |
| About Music | 5.1 |
| Science | 0.0 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Read Books | 87.2%(34) |
| Median Age | 70 - 74 |
| Median Education | 1 - 4 years of college |

# LEXINGTON

## READING INTEREST PROFILE

## GROUP 8

N = 36

| SUBJECT | PERCENTAGE |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Romance | 22.9 |
| Mysteries | 22.9 |
| Short Stories | 22.9 |
| Adventure | 17.1 |
| Historical | 14.3 |
| Westerns | 11.4 |
| Animal Stories | 8.6 |
| Humor | 8.6 |
| Science Fiction | 0.0 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Religion | 42.9 |
| Homemaking | 25.7 |
| Travel | 22.9 |
| Current Affairs | 17.1 |
| History | 11.4 |
| Art | 8.6 |
| Biography | 5.7 |
| Business | 5.7 |
| Philosophy | 5.7 |
| About Music | 5.7 |
| Science | 2.9 |
| Nature | 2.9 |
| Poetry | 2.9 |
| Plays | 0.0 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Read Books | 66.7%(24) |
| Median Age | 70 - 74 |
| Median Education | 1 - 4 years high school |

# REFERENCES

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# LOUISVILLE

# IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICE FOR OLDER ADULTS

## LOUISVILLE

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# IMPROVED LIBRARY SERVICE
# FOR OLDER ADULTS

## LOUISVILLE

## Introduction

Mindful of the practical objectives of the NRTA/AARP Kentucky Library Project as a whole--generally speaking, to enhance the lives of older persons through increasing and extending library services to them; and more particularly, to establish innovative models of library service--the present report will be presented in a somewhat different style from the usual academic research report. It is felt that the report on the characteristics of users and non-users of library services would not be particularly useful to the librarians and staff in furthering the objectives of the project if couched in terms of the null hypothesis and including a detailed description of the methodology and statistical analysis. Alternatively, it is my hope that the materials can be presented in such a way as not only to impart information about the respondents in the particular location but to induce greater sympathy and understanding of some of the problems older persons face when using the library. Additional explanatory or supportive date may be included from the community profile, the library profile and the fields of gerontology, medicine, architecture, etc. While many of the barriers to library use may be inherent in the process of aging and therefore in some ways irremediable, the greater awareness of these problems may generate a more relaxed approach to difficulties which arise and may provide a happier milieu for both librarian and older user.

Materials and activities generated by the research may prove productive at several levels--

(1) The administration of the questionnaire itself can provide a positive or constructive element in alerting persons to many of the services the library can provide. It is good public relations. In essence, it says, "Your library cares what _you_ think.", and "We want to do a better job for _you_."

(2) The methodology (especially the use of group interviews) provides a less-often-used approach in the gathering of information.

(3) At the level of the frequency counts, such information may be put to direct use. For example, if frequency counts show many persons prefer to read history and historical fiction, more titles in these areas may be placed in collections in retirement homes, or sent out on bookmobiles which serve an older segment of the population. If sufficient numbers of persons are found to be interested in gardening as a hobby, or various handcrafts, etc., classes in such areas might be instituted and books provided in those areas by the library.

Certain of the measures may be useful to other agencies serving this segment of the population. For example, if a high percentage of the respondents live in one-person households, these persons might be interested in programs similar to Meals on Wheels in which food is centrally prepared and delivered to a person's home or in a "Country Gathering" where people go to a central location and take meals together. Even some two-person families might be interested in this service, particularly if one of them is physically unable to shop for food and prepare meals, or if both suffer physical disabilities. Often better nutrition is achieved which might result in greater participation in other ways such as library use.

(4) Statistical analysis may help to determine those underlying attributes most necessary to increased library usage. A User Potential Index (hereinafter referred to as the UP Index) has been formulated in an effort to determine what portion of the non-library-user group might most easily be encouraged to become library users, and which of the infrequent users might be encouraged to use the library more often.

## What do we hope to find out?

The questionnaire is expected to elicit baseline data concerning differences in various socio-economic characteristics such as marital status, living arrangements, educational attainments, and sources of and amounts of income. Areas of activity such as leisure interests, and social and community contacts will be analyzed. Finally, responses regarding attitude toward the library, use and anticipated use of library services and reading interests will be interpreted. A synthesis of the above information in terms of users and non-users of library services (in conjunction with community and library profiles already completed as a separate segment of the Kentucky Library Project) will be used to initiate innovative library services.

## What people were included in the study?

Participants in the study are included by age and status in the labor force. Persons over the age of 65 are included, irrespective of their status in the labor force. Persons younger than 65 are included if they say they are "retired". These might include wives, younger than 65, of retired men. Generally, if a woman is married to a retired man, she considers herself "retired" also. Some widows consider themselves "retired" even though they might never have worked for wages. Certain persons "retire" from positions which require that they fulfill a certain number of years of service. These persons might be "retired" from a career job (perhaps military) although they are presently employed either full or part time.

## How was the material gathered?

The initial problem of contacting older persons was solved by asking for the cooperation of various groups of persons in the service area of the library who were already members of clubs primarily composed of older persons. Group interviews were used in which a questionnaire was filled out by the respondents at various locations in Louisville during the spring and summer of 1973.

## How was library use defined?

A "user" is a person who has been to the library within the last month.

An "infrequent user" is a person who has been to the library within the last six months, but not during the last month.

A "non-user" is a person who stated he has not been to the library during the last six months or who stated he didn't know when he last went to the library.

## How can the respondents be described?

Two hundred fifty-seven persons filled out questionnaires: two hundred three females and fifty males, which included twenty-seven blacks. Four persons failed to answer the question on sex. The sex ratio for the State of Kentucky for 1970 according to the U.S. Census figures was 96.3 males for every 100 females.* As can be readily seen, the group is under-represented as to men. Blacks are somewhat under-represented since they constitute only 10.8 percent of the respondents, as compared to about 17 percent of Louisville's population.

Respondents belonged to one of nine different groups: a retired teachers' group; groups from three senior citizens' social clubs, a group of retired union members, two special interest groups (poetry and crafts) from a senior citizens housing complex, members of an area council and a number of individuals from a low income housing complex.

The following table shows the group distribution of respondents:

---

* U.S. Bureau of the Census, Characteristics of the Population, Vol. 1, Part 19, Kentucky, p. 19.

## TABLE 1

## GROUP DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS (in percentages)

| Group | | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Retired Teachers | 107 | 41 |
| 2 | A Senior Citizens Social Club | 38 | 15 |
| 3 | Retired Members of a Machinists Union | 19 | 7 |
| 4 | Senior Citizens Social Club | 12 | 5 |
| 5 | Church Sponsored Social Group | 29 | 11 |
| 6 | Craft Group at Senior Citizens Housing Complex | 24 | 9 |
| 7 | Members of an Area Council | 12 | 5 |
| 8 | Poetry Group, Senior Citizens Housing Complex | 7 | 3 |
| 9 | Persons Residing in a Low-income Housing Complex | 9 | 4 |

Since the service area of the library embodies all of Jefferson County, it might be wise at this point to make some comparison of the age distribution of the respondents to the age distribution of persons 55 years of age and over in Jefferson County.

## TABLE 2

## AGE DISTRIBUTION

## JEFFERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

## 55 YEARS AND OVER

(in percent of population over 55)

| | |
|---|---|
| Total county population | 695,055 |
| Total population 55 and over | 122,843 |

| Age in Years | Numbers | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Over 80 | 11,610 | 9.5 |
| 75-79 | 11,346 | 9.2 |
| 70-74 | 16,885 | 13.7 |
| 65-69 | 22,606 | 18.4 |
| 55-64 | 60,426 | 49.2 |
| | 122,843 | 100.0 |

Source: Table 35, "Age by Race and Sex, for Counties: 1970", U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, General Population Characteristics, Final Report, PC (1) B19, Kentucky, p. 142.

The following table shows the age distribution of the respondents:

### TABLE 3

### AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS
(in percentages)

| Age in Years | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Over 80 | 17 | 6.6 |
| 75-79 | 39 | 15.2 |
| 70-74 | 69 | 26.8 |
| 65-69 | 84 | 32.7 |
| 55-64 | 38 | 14.8 |
| Under 55 | 1 | .4 |
| Missing Observations | 9 | 3.5 |
|  | 257 | 100.0 |

While it cannot be claimed that the persons in each of the age categories is necessarily representative of the age group in the county as a whole (especially since the respondents are generally from the non-rural areas, and do not include men in the same proportion as the sex ratio for Kentucky would require), ~~nonetheless,~~ nonetheless information from those available may provide valuable insights into improving library services to all older age groups. Due to the nature of the study (primarily of those who consider themselves "retired") respondents under the age of 55 would not reflect their numbers in the general county population. Understandably, too, the respondent group would be underrepresented in the over-80 age group, since it is likely that relatively fewer in that age group remain active. Respondents in the age groups between 65 and 79 contributed a considerably greater proportion than the percentage in those age groups for the county population 55 years of age and over as a whole.

## Social and Economic Characteristics

How do the social and economic characteristics of the Louisville respondents compare with those of the United States as a whole? The attributes we will consider are marital status, living arrangements, educational attainment, sources and amount of income, poverty level and satisfaction with income.

Marital Status. In the United States as a whole, great differences are found in marital status between men and women in the over 55 age groups. For the year 1960, 79.0% of the men between 55 and 64 years were married and living with their wives; while only 62.9% of the women were married and living with their husbands. Only 6.2% of the men in this age group as compared with 24.5% of the women were widowed. In the over 65 age group, 69.8% of the men as compared to 35.3% of the women were living with their spouses. In 1971, the figures are more disparate--84.2% of the men between the ages of 55 and 64 and only 64.9% of the women in that age group are married and living with their spouses. In the over 65 age group, 70.1% of the men, but only 34.5% of the women live with their spouses. Seventeen and one-tenth percent of the men, but 54.2% of the women over 65 are widowed.*

Of the fifty men included in the study, forty or 80.0% are married, while seven are widowed. Of the women, only 27.6% are married, 3.4% are divorced and 45.8% are widowed. Twenty-one and seven-tenths of the women have never married. At whatever age, men are more likely to be married than women, and women are a good deal more likely to be widowed.

As a consequence of marital status, four-fifths of the Louisville respondents live in one- or two-person families. Living arrangements by sex are shown by the following table:

---

* Distribution of the Population 55 Years Old and Over by Marital Status, by Age and Sex: 1960, 1971, and 1985, in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington,D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 26.

## TABLE 4

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS BY SEX

LOUISVILLE RESPONDENTS
(in percent)
N = 240

| Type of Living Arrangements | Sex Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| Alone | 15.2 | 55.2 |
| Respondent and Spouse | 67.4 | 24.2 |
| Respondent and Relative | 10.9 | 17.5 |
| Respondent and Unrelated Person | 6.5 | 3.1 |

For comparative purposes, the United States figures for 65 and over are as follows:

## TABLE 5

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE POPULATION

## 65 YEARS AND OLDER BY SEX

March 1971

| Living Arrangements | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| Living alone | 13.9 | 34.8 |
| Spouse present | 70.1 | 34.5 |
| Living with someone else | 15.9 | 30.7 |

Source: Table 21. Living Arrangements of the Population 55 Years Old and Over by Age and Sex: March, 1971, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Series P-23, No. 43, Current Population Reports, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States, Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973, p. 26.

More of the females in the respondent group live alone and fewer live with relatives or unrelated persons than the U.S. figures indicate. The men in the respondent group generally reflect approximately the same percentages as the U.S. figures. Nine persons over 80 live alone and four of these had never married.

Education. One of the critical attributes prerequisite to high library usage is years of education completed. "...education and more education is needed to make a reader...education is overwhelmingly the factor most closely associated with reading."* The statement made in Baltimore Reaches Out comes as no surprise as numerous studies have found the statement to be true. This study is no exception. Accordingly, the older age groups are generally at some disadvantage educationally as their median years of education completed is somewhat lower than those in the younger age segments. In the U.S. as a whole, the median years of school completed, for those 65 years and over for the years 1969-70 was 8.7 and only 28.2% were high school graduates. By contrast, 60.4% of persons 25 to 64 years of age are high school graduates.**

For males 65 and over, the median years of school completed was 8.6 and for females 8.8. As a practical matter, this could mean that approximately half of the 65 and over population would be unlikely candidates for library service. It is expected, however, that as the younger age groups with their proportionately greater education move into retirement age brackets that by 1990 the median years of school completed for those 65 and over will rise from the present 8.7 years to 11.9 years.*** This increase in education alone should provide an additional number of potential library users. According to figures from the 1970 Census for the entire United States, 4% of those 65 and over have had no school at all; 53% have completed between 1 and 8 years; 27% have completed 4 years or more of high school, but only 6% have completed 4 years or more of college.****

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* Lowell A. Martin, Baltimore Reaches Out, Library Services to the Disadvantaged, (Baltimore, Md., Enoch Pratt Free Library, June, 1967), p. 25.

** U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), Table 19., Educational Attainment of the Population 65 Years Old and Over and 25 to 64 Years of Age, for Various Years: 1957 to 1990, p. 25.

*** Op. cit., Table 19., Educational Attainment of the population 65 Years Old and Over and 25 to 64 Years of Age, for Various Years: 1957 to 1990, p. 25.

**** We the American Elderly, Bureau of the Census, Public Information Office, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 11.

The following table indicates the number of years of school completed by the Louisville respondents:

### TABLE 6

### YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

### LOUISVILLE RESPONDENTS
(in percent)
(Number = 257)

| | |
|---|---|
| Less than 8 grades | 28.0 |
| 1 - 4 years of high school | 15.6 |
| 1 - 4 years of college | 21.0 |
| 1 - 4 years of graduate school | 26.5 |
| Missing Data | 8.9 |

Comparison with the national figures indicates that while 57% had completed 8 years or less, only 28.0% of the Louisville respondents had so little education; and that 64.6% had completed high school and had some college or graduate work. Consequently, the Louisville respondents appear to be a rather select group in terms of educational accomplishment.

In a cross-tabulation of library use and years of school completed, it can be seen that (as expected) library use increases with increased education, and increases rather markedly for those who have college or graduate level education. Whereas 50.0% of the persons with graduate education are library users or infrequent users, 93.1% of those with 8th grade education or less are non-users.

### TABLE 7

### EDUCATION AND LIBRARY USE
(in percent)

| | Non-User | Infrequent User | User | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 - 8 years | 93.1 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 99.9 |
| 9 - 12 years | 79.1 | 6.0 | 14.9 | 100.0 |
| 1 - 4 years | 53.8 | 13.8 | 32.3 | 99.9 |
| 1 - 4 years graduate school | 50.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 100.0 |

## Sources of Income

Pre-retirement Employment. As a response to a relatively high educational level and the number of years in the labor force, one would expect that pre-retirement employment of the Louisville respondents would likely be predominantly in the white collar category.

The following table delineates the pre-retirement employment of the Louisville respondents:

TABLE 8

PRE-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT* OF

LOUISVILLE RESPONDENTS
(in percent)
(Number = 257)

| | |
|---|---|
| White Collar Workers | 58.0 |
| Blue Collar Workers | 11.3 |
| Farm Workers | -- |
| Service Workers | 7.4 |
| No answer | 23.3 |
| | 100.0 |

---

* Briefly stated, service workers (except private household workers such as cooks, housekeepers, maids and servants) include such categories as barbers, firemen, policemen, practical nurses, elevator operators, and hairdressers. Farm workers include farm laborers and farm foremen. Blue collar workers include craftsmen and kindred workers, such as carpenters, electricians, machinists, painters, etc., transport equipment operatives, and laborers, except farm. White collar workers include professional, technical and kindred workers including such categories as engineers, social scientists, teachers, draftsmen; managers and administrators, except farm; sales workers, clerical and kindred workers. For a detailed listing of categories included in the four classes, refer to List A, Occupational Classification for Total and White Males ..., U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, Subject Reports, Final Report PC-2, 8B, Earnings by Occupation and Education, (Washington, D.C. USGPO, 1973), p. 105, IX and X.

Twenty-two persons stated that they had never worked for wages. The mean number of years worked on the pre-retirement job was 31.8 years.

The labor force profile from the 1970 Census for the State of Kentucky for workers in 1965, 65 years of age and over, excluding those who did not report their occupations, is as follows:

### TABLE 9

### MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP IN 1965 OF WORKERS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE WHO REPORTED THEIR OCCUPATIONS

### KENTUCKY, 1970

| | |
|---|---|
| White Collar Workers | 48% |
| Blue Collar Workers | 26% |
| Farm Workers | 9% |
| Service Workers | 17% |
| | 100% |

Source: Calculated from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970, Subject Reports, Final Report, PC (2)-7E, Occupation and Residence in 1965, Table 2, Major Occupation Groups in 1970 of those 20 years old and over by Major Occupation in 1965, Age, Race and Spanish Origin in 1970, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 6 and 16.

By using the 65 years and over age segment who were working in 1965, the distribution should take into account the number of years in the labor force to some extent. From a comparison of the two profiles, the Louisville respondents are disproportionately white collar workers. A possible explanation is that white collar workers are more apt to be "joiners" of groups and thus much more likely to be included in a survey sample. No farm workers were included among the respondents.

So far as library use is concerned, forty-two persons in the categories of blue collar and service workers answered the question. Only one service worker out of 16 was a library user. Five blue collar workers out of a total of 26 were infrequent users or users of library services. In contrast, 133 white collar workers answered the library use question and 54.1% of those are library users and infrequent users.

Present Sources of Income. From what sources does the income of the Louisville respondents aries? As one would expect, the most frequently mentioned source of income is Social Security, which is received by 62.3% of the respondents. State or federal government pensions contributed to the income of 30% of the respondents, but only 5.8% said they made withdrawals from savings, selling real estate or cashing bonds. Only 1.2% received money from relatives.

For more detailed information on source of income, see Table 10, "Sources of Income of Respondents".

## TABLE 10

## SOURCES OF INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

(Income for year 1972)

| | |
|---|---|
| Social Security Benefits | 62.3% |
| State or Federal Government Pensions | 30.0% |
| Interest from Investments and Rent | 24.5% |
| Private or Company Pension | 10.1% |
| Withdrawals from Savings, Selling Real Estate or Cashing Bonds | 5.8% |
| A Job | 5.4% |
| Railroad Pension | 1.9% |
| Relatives | 1.2% |
| Old Age Assistance | .8% |
| Any other Government Assistance at All | .4% |
| Government Payment of Some Injury | .4% |

---

Does not add up to 100.0% since more than one source could be checked.

Labor Force Participation. In Jefferson County 25.3% of the men 65 and over but only 11.2% of the females 65 and over are still in the labor force.*

Among the Louisville respondents, approximately one person in twenty still received income from some kind of job. However, 11.3% say they work either full or part time. It is possible that a number of persons do "work" as volunteers and thus do not receive income from those activities.

On the national scene, for men 65 and over, labor participation has shown a steady decrease from 45.8 per hundred in 1950 to 25.5 in 1971. The rate for those past 70 was 17.0. In all probability, few men still working would be included in the survey. For females, the national rate of participation has remained relatively stable, being 9.7 per hundred in 1950 for those 65 and over and decreasing only slightly to 9.5 for 1971.** It is anticipated that national labor participation rates for men may continue to decline as the result of greater coverage by private pensions and Social Security.

## Amount of Income, Poverty Level and Satisfaction with Income

Income. A certain resistance by some people to answering the question on income was experienced (even though the categories were relatively broad since detailed information was not necessary for the purpose of this study). Eighty-one people failed to answer, or approximately 1 out of 3. The following table shows the percentage distribution of income of the respondents:

---

* U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1970 Characteristics of the Population, Vol. 1, Part 19, Kentucky, Table 21. Employment Characteristics for Counties: 1970 (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), pp. 414-423.

** Table 22. Labor Force Participation Rates for the Population 55 years and Over, By Age, Sex, and Race for Various Years: 1950 to 1980, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects of Aging in the United States", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 28.

## TABLE 11

## INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

(in percentage of total respondents)

| Amount Per Month | Percent |
|---|---|
| Less than $200 | 11.7 |
| Over $200 but less than $500 | 26.5 |
| Over $500 but less than $750 | 16.7 |
| Over $750 but less than $1,000 | 6.6 |
| Over $1,000 | 7.0 |
| Failed to answer | 31.5 |

When marital status is taken into account, the following figures result:

## TABLE 12

## MARITAL STATUS AND INCOME OF RESPONDENTS PER MONTH

(in percentages)

| Marital Status | Income Per Month | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Less than $200 | Over $200 but less than $500 | Over $500 but less than $750 | Over $750 but less than $1000 | Over $1000 |
| Married (N=68) | 11.8 | 44.1 | 14.7 | 11.8 | 17.8 |
| Widowed (N=56) | 32.1 | 35.7 | 23.2 | 8.9 | -- |
| Never Married (N=39) | -0- | 30.8 | 43.6 | 10.3 | 15.4 |
| Divorced (N=6) | 33.3 | 33.3 | 33.3 | -- | -- |
| Separated (N=2) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Poverty Level. In order to assess the adequacy of the above figures in terms of level of living, a comparison of those figures with the "Retired Couple Budget" put out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics might be useful. The retired couple budget is based not on poverty level (established each year from the Current Population Survey of annual income for farm and non-farm families of varying sizes by a rather complicated formula), but on a "modest but adequate" standard of living. In 1969, the poverty level for a person aged 65 or over living alone or with non-relatives averaged $1,749 and for a couple with head 65 or over, it averaged $2,194.* The modest but adequate retired couple's budget includes a detailed list of items such as food, housing, transportation, clothing and personal care, medical care, personal income taxes and "other" items. The budget also assumes some existing inventory of clothing, furniture and appliances.

The budgetary levels established, as of the spring of 1970, are as follows:

| Budget Level** | Single Person 65+ | Couple 65+ |
|---|---|---|
| Lower | $1,555 | $2,832 |
| Intermediate | 2,297 | 4,185 |
| Higher | 3,177 | 5,786 |

A recent revision of the budget levels for autumn, 1972, shows the following figures for the urban retired couple:

| Budget Level | Total |
|---|---|
| Lower | $3,442 |
| Intermediate | 4,967 |
| Higher | 7,689 |

The increases are calculated by using changes in the consumer price index and show increases over the 1971 budget of 3.7% for the lower level, 4.0% for the intermediate and 3.3% for the higher level.***

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* Administration on Aging, Facts and Figures on Older Americans, No. 1, "Measuring Adequacy of Income", (Washington, D.C., DHEW, 1972), p. 3.

** Ibid., p. 6.

*** From Statistical Memo #26, dated October 5, 1973, to AOA Professional Staff from Blanch S. Williams.

By comparing the income of the total group of respondents with the 1970 budgetary levels, it can be seen that while the respondents are fairly well off, that 11.7% have less than $2,400 per year income. This would fall roughly within the lower budget levels for couples. Twenty-six and five-tenths per cent (26.5%) of the respondents have less than $6,000 per year income, which would fall generally within the higher budgetary levels for couples. When marital status is taken into account, slightly less than one-third of the widowed have less than $2,400 per year, which would place them slightly above the intermediate budgetary figures for 1970. Of the married couples 55.9% have less than $6,000 per year which would place them slightly above the higher budget levels for 1970, but somewhat below the higher budgetary level revised as of 1972. Among the Louisville respondents, it is worthy to note that 25.7% of those who never married persons have yearly incomes in excess of $9,000. Seventeen and eight-tenths per cent (17.8%) of the married persons have over $12,000 per year.

One should be aware also that the budgetary figures above do not take into account either the length of time a person has been retired or the amount of assets available at retirement. How much are such retirement assets likely to be? A recently begun (1969) ten-year longitudinal study by the Social Security Administration gathered information on pre-retirement assets from 11,153 men aged 58-63, regardless of marital status, and women of the same ages who were not, when selected, living with a spouse, the sample being drawn from all 50 states. Married women were not included since "for most married women of this generation 'retirement' has little meaning apart from their husband's stopping work."* Half of all the reporting nonmarried units had a total net worth (assets less debt) of less than $4,500. When home equity was excluded, the amount dropped below $900. With married men, half had more than $16,000 in net worth and more than $4,600 other than in home equity.**

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* Lola M. Irelan, Retirement History Study, Report No.1, (Washington, D.C., Social Security Administration, 1973), p. 6.

** Sally R. Sherman, "Assets on the Threshold of Retirement", Social Security Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 8, (August, 1973), p. 14.

Sixty-five is generally conceded as the usual retirement age although women may retire at age 62. How long, in general, should assets and post-retirement income be expected to last? In Kentucky (1968) the average remaining years of life was 12.9 for males and 16.4 years for females. If a woman retires at 62 instead of 65, she might spend 19.4 years "retired".*

A woman's chances of surviving to older ages are greater than a man's. Once having reached age 65 a man has only 200 chances in 1,000 of reaching age 85 while a woman has 352--about one and one-half times as much.** Disproportionate budgetary stress may result for women since their income either as wage earners or as pensioners through survivorship is usually smaller.

Thus, considering the expenditure only of "modest but adequate" budgets plus the relatively long life expectancy of persons after retirement, it is obvious that such assets could not long sustain either an individual or a couple in the absence of other sources of income.

Satisfaction with Income. Interestingly enough, 60.7% of the respondents stated that they were satisfied with their income. Since 17.1% failed to answer the question, and only 7.4 said they didn't know whether they were satisfied or not, only 14.4% voiced dissatisfaction with their income.

On the assumption that the older a person is, the longer he has been retired, let us see whether or not greater dissatisfaction with income occurs at the older ages. In every age group, more persons are satisfied with their income than are dissatisfied. The greatest satisfaction with one's income, as one might surmise, might occur in those age groups more recently retired. With the Louisville respondents, the opposite appears to be the case--fewer persons are satisfied in the 65-69 year age group than in the older age groups. In all age groups beyond 70 years of age, more than 70% say they are satisfied with their incomes.

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* "Regional Variations in Longevity at Ages 65 and Older", Metropolitan Life Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 54, (September, 1973), p. 11.

** Ibid.

## Social Contacts and Activities

One of the goals set forth by the 1971 White House Conference on Aging was to "achieve and maintain positive and well integrated social relations within the family and community".* It is assumed that if persons maintain such social relations their continued interest in various areas would be a likely stimulus to the use of the library. Conversely, high alienation would likely militate against library use. In an effort to measure some areas of "life space" or "...that network of social interactions unique to a particular individual",** questions were asked regarding the amount of leisure time available, voting behavior, the number of meetings attended, leisure activities and interests, and various facets of alienation.

Spare Time. Even after retirement some people have no "spare time". Some care for invalided mates, or other relatives for whom they are responsible. Some are involved in a number of activities and have no spare time (in their view) for additional activities. Some oldsters have more time than they know what to do with. How much spare time do the Louisville respondents feel that they have? Seven percent (7%) of those who answered (215 persons) said they had no spare time at all and an additional 3.3% said they had less than one hour per day to spend as they wished. Interestingly enough, 43.3% said they had between three and six hours a day spare time and 26.0% said they had over six hours of spare time. Obviously, persons in this group do have time to devote to additional activities if they find the activities of sufficient interest.

Voting Behavior. One means of continuing participation in community life is that of voting. One of the explanations for continued interest in political matters after retirement is that since certain role losses are societally rather than individually imposed, remaining roles may become more important. A person is not, after all, automatically disenfranchised at a particular older age.

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* Retirement Roles and Activities, White House Conference on Aging, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, n.d.), p. 11

** Robert C. Atchley, The Social Forces in Later Life, (Belmont, Calif., Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1972), p. 340.

Concern has been voiced by librarians that the elderly population might constitute a voting bloc. Such a voting bloc could exist as a part of a sub-culture of aging, a concept discussed by sociologist Arnold Rose* in which he sets forth criteria tending to show that the elderly in the population could be considered a sub-culture. Requisites for such a sub-culture are that (1) members have a positive affinity for each other on some basis and (2) the members are excluded from interaction with other groups to some significant extent. Evidence of the awareness of this concept may be found in Eleanor Phinney's article on "Library and the Aging"** in which she mentions the "danger in old people's organizing as an interest bloc, and of the impediment to progressive action embodied in a large voting group of ultra-conservative tendencies,...."

Atchley*** feels that such a sub-culture as defined by Rose probably does not exist. First, older people belong to numerous interest groups, not necessarily based on age. Secondly, older persons generally remain in the community and house they lived in before retirement. For example, for the year 1970-71, only 5.4% of the population 65 to 74 moved to a different house in the same county and only 2.9% moved to a different county. For those 75 and over only 6.8% moved to a different county.**** Consequently, the aged are dispersed throughout the population rather than being physically isolated in the sense that they are non-age-segregated as they might be in retirement villages, or apartment complexes exclusively for the retired. Third, because of interaction with their children, they do have meaningful contacts across generational lines. In other words, age _per se_ does not act as a consolidating factor. Thus, if such a sub-culture does not exist, it would be more difficult for a strong voting bloc to materialize.

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* Arnold M. Rose and Warren A. Peterson, _Older People and Their Social World: The Subculture of the Aging_, (Philadelphia, Pa., F.A. Davis Co., 1965), p. 14.

** Library Journal, 78 (1953), pp. 1875-79.

*** _Op. cit._, Atchley.

**** U.S. Bureau of the Census, _Current Population Reports_, Series P-23, No. 43, "Some Demographic Aspects in the United States", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 13.

That persons in older age groups do, in fact, vote in rather remarkable numbers, is borne out by national and regional figures as well as by the voting behavior of the respondents in the age groups contacted in Louisville. The following table shows the percent voting, 55 years of age and older for all races in the United States and in the Southern Region of which Kentucky is a part.

### TABLE 13

### REPORTED VOTER PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS 55 AND OVER, ALL RACES BY SEX AND AGE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOUTHERN REGION, NOVEMBER, 1972

(Civilian non-institutional population)

| | Percent Voting | |
|---|---|---|
| | United States | Southern Region |
| Both sexes, all ages | 63.0 | 55.4 |
| 55 to 64 years | 70.7 | 62.2 |
| 65 to 74 years | 68.1 | 60.1 |
| 75 years and over | 55.6 | 46.4 |
| Male | | |
| 55 to 64 years | 72.4 | 65.8 |
| 65 to 74 years | 73.2 | 65.7 |
| 75 years and over | 75.0 | 59.1 |
| Female | | |
| 55 to 64 years | 69.2 | 59.1 |
| 65 to 74 years | 64.3 | 55.9 |
| 75 years and over | 49.1 | 38.3 |

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Source: Table 1, Reported Voter Participation and Registration of Persons of Voting age, by race, Spanish Origin, Sex and Age, for the United States and Regions, November, 1972 in U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 253, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November, 1972", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), pp. 7-27.

As shown by Table 13, voting participation in the Southern Region drops off fairly sharply at age 75 and over, especially among females. Figures show that for both sexes and for females in both the United States and the Southern Region, the most active voting period occurs between 45 and 54 years of age. For males in the United States, interestingly enough, ages 75 and over showed that 75.0% voted, which was the highest percent of participation. In the Southern Region, males in the 55-64 age category voted slightly more frequently than those in the 45-54 age category (65.8% as compared to 65.2%).

So far as the Louisville respondents are concerned, 87.8% of the total of 238 (19 failed to answer) stated that they voted in the last national election (November, 1972). The following table shows the percentages voting in each age group:

TABLE 14

PERCENTAGE OF LOUISVILLE RESPONDENTS
VOTING IN 1972 ELECTION, BY AGE

(N=238, 19 failed to answer)

| Age | Percent Voting |
|---|---|
| 55-64 | 81.1 |
| 65-69 | 91.7 |
| 70-74 | 86.4 |
| 75-79 | 83.8 |
| Over 80 | 100.0 |

While some may have stated that they voted because they thought they should have, it is possible that the more politically active and interested tend to participate in more social activities and would be more likely to be included in such a survey as this.

Most Louisville respondents have means to get to the polls to vote--57.6% say they own their own cars; 49.8% say when they want to go some place they drive themselves there and an additional 26.1% say they have someone else drive them where they want to go. Nineteen and one-tenth percent (19.1%) take a bus or taxi.

It is interesting to note that while casuality is not necessarily implied, 95% have some means of transportation available and 83.7% of the total said they voted.

While reasons for not voting were not asked of the Louisville respondents, it is obvious that active dislike of politics, lack of interest in politics or the inability to get to the polls could be considered strong reasons for not voting. The following table shows reasons for not voting in the United States for aged 55 and over:

TABLE 15

REPORTED REASON NOT VOTING OF PERSONS WHO REPORTED THAT THEY WERE REGISTERED BUT DID NOT VOTE, BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE FOR THE UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER, 1972
(Civilian Non-institutional population)

| Age | Reasons for Not Voting | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| All Races | Not Interested | Dislike Politics | Unable to go to Polls |
| Both Sexes | | | |
| 55-64 years | 17.9 | 13.1 | 35.2 |
| 65 years & over | 8.5 | 7.8 | 56.3 |
| Male | | | |
| 55-64 | 14.7 | 13.4 | 33.5 |
| 65 years & over | 10.7 | 10.3 | 51.6 |
| Female | | | |
| 55-64 | 14.6 | 10.8 | 40.2 |
| 65 years & over | 7.2 | 6.2 | 59.3 |

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Source: Table 18, reported Reason for Not Voting of Persons Who Reported that They Were Registered But Did Not Vote, By Age, Sex, and Race for the United States, November, 1972. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 253, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November, 1972", (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 140.

The most acute reason for not voting given for the 65 and over age group as shown in Table 15 is the inability to go to the polls. While in some cases this might be a rationalization for not voting, it nonetheless appears to be a real problem for people who might not, from an economic point of view, be able to afford transportation, or who, because of infirmity, are no longer able to drive.

As stated above, the Louisville respondents included in this survey seem amply supplied with means of getting to the polls, which may at least partially explain their high participation in voting activity.

Long and Lucioli suggest that "It is vital that we should not be handicapped in our progress in these fields [social and economic adjustment] by having to face an old age pressure group inherently opposed to innovation and *concerned only with its own security and comfort*."* The fear that the older age segment is concerned "only with its own security and comfort" is not borne out by a recent survey conducted by the American Association of Retired Persons.** Information on the felt needs of older persons was received from almost 70,000 members in late 1972. The major areas of concern were (1) inflation, (2) the high crime rate, (3) high taxes, (4) drug use and (5) decline in religious and moral values. None of these are exclusively concerns of the aged and are concerns reflected in national surveys which include all age groups. "Inadequate attention to the problems of the retired" was ranked eighth.

It would seem, therefore, fairly unlikely either that the elderly would form a voting bloc which would have influence disproportionate to the size of the aging segment or that if such strength existed that it would be used to promote programs or legislation "concerned only with its own security and comfort."

*Meetings*. For most of the respondents, meetings of various kinds provide considerable community contact. Eighty and five-tenths percent had attended one or more meetings during the previous month. Twenty-five and three-tenths percent attended between four and six meetings, and 12.1% of the respondents attended between seven and ten meetings the previous month. About 1 in 8 (12.5%) attended more than ten meetings during the month and 10.9% did not attend any meetings during the previous month. Unless relevance of materials and services of the library can be established in connection with the subject matter of some of the meetings, competition for the time of persons involved in several meetings may not be successful. It seems easier to continue an activity already begun than to start a new one.

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* Fern Long and Clara Lucioli, "The Live Long and Like It Club: A Project in Adult Education for Older People". *Wilson Library Bulletin*, 23, (Dec., 1948).

** James A. Peterson, "Report on You", *Modern Maturity*, Vol. 16, No. 4, (August-September, 1973), pp. 64-65.

Leisure activities. Greater numbers of activities should provide a wider base of interest in the materials and services a library has to offer. Respondents were asked to check the activities they had participated in during the last year not only to determine the extent of participation, but to indicate areas of interest upon which to build programs.

The most frequently mentioned activity for the groups combined (N=257) was taking a vacation. Yard work and gardening ranked second closely followed by church and volunteer work in rank 3. For additional details regarding the activities of all groups combined, refer to the following table:

## TABLE 16

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in percent)

WHOLE GROUP
(N=257)

| Activity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Take a vacation trip | 57.2 |
| Yard work or gardening | 52.9 |
| Church or volunteer work | 51.0 |
| Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery | 47.9 |
| Play cards or other games such as monopoly | 46.7 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 41.6 |
| Go to the movies | 30.4 |
| Go to plays or concerts | 33.1 |
| Play bingo | 26.5 |
| Listen to records | 25.7 |
| Spend time at the library | 20.6 |
| Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. | 17.1 |
| Work jigsaw puzzles | 12.5 |
| Play a musical instrument | 10.1 |
| Belong to a singing group | 9.1 |
| Participate in any kind of sports | |

When the average number of activities per person per group was compared to the percentage of persons in each group who had visited the library during the last six months, a slight negative relationship resulted.

For detail regarding the relative popularity of activities among the nine subgroups, refer to Tables I through IX which are included in Appendix A.

The following table shows activities designated by ranks, 1, 2, or 3 in all groups combined and each subgroup.

## TABLE 17

### LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES FOR ENTIRE GROUP AND SUBGROUPS FOR THE FIRST THREE RANKS

| Activity | Whole Group (N=257) | Group 1 (N=107) | Group 2 (N=38) | Group 3 (N=19) | Group 4 (N=12) | Group 5 (N=29) | Group 6 (N=24) | Group 7 (N=12) | Group 8 (N=7) | Group 9 (N=9) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Take a Vacation Trip | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | 3 | 2 | |
| Yard Work or Gardening | 2 | 3 | | 1 | | 3 | | 2 | 1 | |
| Church or Volunteer Work | 3 | 2 | | | | | 3 | 1 | | |
| Any kind of Sewing, Needlepoint or Embroidery | | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Play Cards or other Games such as Monopoly | | | 3 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| Go Driving for Pleasure | | | | 3 | | | | | 3 | |
| Play Bingo | | | | | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| Belong to a Singing Group | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Work Jigsaw Puzzles | | | | | | | | | | 3 |

Use of radio and TV. Two passive activities which provide formidable competition for library use are television viewing and listening to the radio. It is much easier to snap on the TV or radio than to read a book or bestir oneself to the library. Over four-fifths (87.5%) of the respondents watch TV and 71.2% say they listen to the radio. A little less than 47.2% of those who watch TV say they spend between one and two hours a day watching, and an additional 43.5% watch between three and five hours a day. Fifteen persons (9.3%) say they spend in excess of six hours a day.

What are the main reasons people give for watching? "A National Inventory of Television Viewing Behavior" found that 32% watched for entertainment, 26% for relaxation and 18% admitted they watched only to "kill time".* Another study** found that "few turn on their sets for educational purposes" and that "only 10% mentioned information-seeking as a reason for watching TV". A study on news viewing found that the majority of the population (52% of the men and 54% of the women) reported they had not seen a national news program during the two-week period (Oct.-Nov., 1969) of the study.*** However, "both male and female regular news viewers are drawn disproportionately from older people in our society, regardless of their educational level or amount of overall viewing time".****

Alienation. If activities would seem to encourage library use, it also seems plausible that the opposite societal alienation would be likely to discourage library use. In an effort to determine whether or not this is true of the respondents in Louisville, a five-item alienation scale was included in the questionnaire. Five of the six items included in Middleton's Alienation Scale* were used. The statement "I don't really enjoy most of the work that I do, but I feel that I must do it in order to have other things that I need and want", was excluded since this study deals with retired persons and was not applicable. Remaining items included statements intended to measure powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, cultural estrangement and social estrangement.**

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* Leonard A. LaSciota, Television in Day-to-Day Life: Patterns of Use, Vol. IV (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, n.d.) p. 60.

** John P. Robinson, "Toward Defining the Function of Television", Ibid, p. 580.

*** Harold Israel and John P. Robinson, "Demographic Characteristics of Viewers of Television Violence and News Programs", Television in Day-to-Day Life: Patterns of Use, Vol. IV, (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, n.d.), p. 102.

**** Ibid., p. 107.

The questions were presented in an agree-disagree format. "Positive" answers were those in which the respondents disagreed with the statements. The form of the statements posed particular problems for those of lower educational attainment since in order to make a "positive" response, it was necessary to "disagree" with a negative statement. Consequently, there was a relatively high rate of non-response to these items.

When asked to respond to the statement "In order to get ahead in the world, you are almost forced to do some things which are not right", which is intended to measure normlessness, 59.9% disagreed.

To the statement on cultural estrangement, i.e., "I am not much interested in the TV programs, movies, or magazines that most people seem to like", 47.5% disagreed, while 10.9% failed to answer. Since 87.5% of the respondents said they watch TV and 90.7% of those who answered say they watch between one and five hours a day, and 74.7% say they read magazines, 47.5% seems a rather low percentage of persons who disagree that "they are not much interested in TV programs...,and magazines most people seem to like". The objection could possibly have been aimed at movies rather than TV and magazines due to the wording of the question.

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* R. Middleton, "Alienation, Race and Education", American Sociological Review, 28 (1963), pp. 973-77, as described in Measures of Social Psychological Attitudes, by John P. Robinson and Phillip R. Shaver, (Ann Arbor, Michigan, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, August, 1969).

** For wording of these items, see Question 19, page 4, REV/4 of the Questionnaire, Appendix A.

Thirty-one and nine-tenths percent disagreed with the statement "there is not much that I can do about most of the important problems that we face today". Voting could be considered a response to powerlessness--unless the voters feel that the vote really has no effect. Since such a high percentage of Louisville respondents vote, 31.9% who feel that something can be done about important problems, seems a rather low figure.

To the statement "things have become so complicated in the world today that I really don't understand what is going on", 39.3% disagreed. Four and three-tenths percent failed to answer.

While the four above statements were presented in such a way that understanding might be difficult, the fifth item intended to measure social estrangement should have been easily understood even by those of low education. "I often feel lonely" is a simple, straightforward statement. Some resistence to answering this particular question was in evidence, as shown by the non-answering percentage of 10.9%. However, 47.5% disagreed that they often felt lonely. When a group of 2,543 adults were asked to state their fears, less than one in five said they feared death, and 16% of all women and 11% of the men said they feared loneliness.* There is no way of determining whether those who failed to answer felt lonely often, but did not want to admit it. A number of husband-wife combinations were in attendance and it is possible if one admitted to being lonely, that it might reflect unfavorably on the other partner. Since husband and wife usually sat together and thus could see how the other answered, some answers might have been adjusted accordingly.

Total scores on all five items ranged from 0 for a person who did not disagree with any of the five statements to 5 for a person who disagreed with each of the five statements. Persons with scores of 0, 1, and 2 were considered to be more alienated than those who had scores of 3, 4, or 5. Only 9.7% of the respondents disagreed with all five statements, 13.6% disagreed with all but one statement, and 17.5% disagreed with three. Consequently, 40.8% were not considered to be highly alienated. Some of those remaining who had scores from 0 to 2 or alienated may be accounted for by virtue of non-answering since the items were scored in the positive direction.

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* George H. Gallup, The Gallup Poll, Public Opinion, 1935-71, Vol. 3, 1959-71, (New York: Random House, 1972).

## TABLE 18

## ALIENATION SCORE AND LIBRARY USE

| Score | Non-User No. | Non-User Row % | Infrequent User & User No. | Infrequent User & User Row % | Total No. | Total Row % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| High Alienation (0, 1, 2) | 81 | 70% | 33 | 30% | 114 | 54% |
| Low Alienation | 51 | 50% | 49 | 49% | 99 | 46% |

While 46% of the respondents had scores indicating low alienation, about half of these were infrequent users and users of library services. Of those whose scores indicated high alienation, seventy percent were non-users of library services.

### Life Satisfaction

Four areas of satisfaction were explored--happiness, satisfaction with housing, satisfaction with income and attitude toward retirement.

Happiness. When asked the question, "In general, how happy would you say you are?", 51.0% of the respondents said they were very happy and 41.6% said they were fairly happy. Only one person said he was not happy. Compared to a survey made in January, 1971, by the Gallup Poll, in which 38% of the adults fifty years old and older, said they were very happy and 50% said they were fairly happy,* the respondents were somewhat happier than the broader Gallup sample.

Housing Satisfaction. When asked whether they were satisfied with their housing arrangements, 76.3% of the Louisville respondents indicated satisfaction compared with only 74% of a national adult sample of 1505 made in September, 1973, by the Roper Public Opinion Research Center.** Only 9.7% of the Louisville respondents said they were dissatisfied compared to 23% of the national sample. In a report on an American Association of Retired Persons membership of 70,000 older persons, 89% of the respondents were satisfied with their housing arrangements. Nonetheless, in terms of numbers, the survey estimates that a quarter of a million older Americans are unhappy over their housing.*

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* Gallup Poll, January 14, 1971, p. 2280.

** Current Opinion, Vol. 2, Issue 1, (January, 1974), p. 9.

Income Satisfaction. As previously discussed under socio-economic characteristics, 60.7% of the respondents stated that they were satisfied with their income, while only 14.4% voiced dissatisfaction.

Attitude to Retirement. Six (2.3%) of the Louisville respondents stated that retirement was worse than expected. Thirty-two and seven-tenths percent said retirement was about the same as they expected and 44.0% said retirement was better than expected. It might be well to keep in mind, however, that these people are fairly healthy (61.1% say they have good or excellent health) and relatively unrestricted as to activity (63.0% say they either are not limited in any or not limited in most of their activities). When the Roper Public Opinion Research Center asked a national sample of adults what they considered to be the best stage of life, 24% named young adulthood, 35% named middle age and 20% named retirement.**

## Library Use

Vision. Since eye sufficiency has such direct bearing on the efficient use of the library, the questionnaire sought to establish possible shortcomings in eye care, and the extent of certain types of eye disease. This information might also be used to detect a number of persons who might be eligible to receive "talking books" from the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Frankfort, Kentucky. Many persons with marginal handicaps (those not legally considered "blind") are not aware that this service may be available to them. Certain other aspects of "seeing" that might have a bearing on the "comfortable" use of the library are also included.

Ophthamologists generally recommend that eyes and eyeglasses be checked at least every two years. Ninety-three percent said they wear glasses when they read. Sixty-seven and seven-tenths percent of the respondents said their eyes had been checked either by a doctor or at a clinic during the preceding two years; 64.6% by a doctor and 3.1% at a clinic. Consequently, almost three out of every ten persons who wear glasses may be wearing glasses that no longer provide adequate correction. It is also possible that some who wear glasses do not wear prescription glasses--sometimes people just buy a pair of glasses at the dime store that helps them see a little better than they did before.

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* James A. Peterson, "Report on You", Modern Maturity, Aug.-Sept., 1973, pp. 64-5.

** Current Opinion, Vol. 1, No. 6, (June, 1973), p. 59.

In a pilot program for vision screening in Dallas, Texas, 960 retired persons aged 40 to 103 were tested.* Of the total participants in the program, 32% had not had a vision examination for three years or more and 3.5% had never had one. Forty-one percent were referred to local vision care specialists for further diagnosis; 5.1% for suspected glaucoma, 5.2% for cataract evaluation and 1.5% for other health problems detected through the eyes.

Four common causes of blindness (and if not blindness, at least reduced vision) in people over 65 are macular degeneration, cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopahy.** Macular degeneration is a fairly well pronounced opacity of the cornea, apparent as a grey spot. This condition affects 20% of the older population, and the average age of occurrence is 78. Cataracts, or clouding of the lens of the eye, affects about 17% of the older population. Cataracts cause a general decrease in vision as well as a decrease in the amount of light reaching the eye and results in an excessive glare in sunlight. Glaucoma affects about 13% of the older population, and its average age of occurrence is 73 years. Glaucoma or elevated pressure within the eye, greatly affects peripheral vision. Eyedrops used to alleviate the condition constrict the pupil of the eye and thus reduces the amount of light getting into the eye. Diabetic retinopathy is a non-inflammatory disease of the retina as a result of a diabetic condition. This condition affects about 12% of the older population and its average age of occurrence is 60 years.

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* _Aging_, No. 226, August, 1973, HEW, Office of Human Development, Administration on Aging, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1973), p. 16.

** Leslie S. Libow, "Older People's Medical and Physiological Characteristics: Some Implications for Transportation", published in _Transportation and Aging, Selected Issues_, based on proceedings on the Interdisciplinary Workshop on Transportation and Aging, (Washington, D.C., USGPO, 1970), p. 14.

It is estimated that the number of blind people in the United States is about 380,000 or 19 per thousand. Legal blindness is defined as vision of 20/200 or less in the best eye and a visual field of 20 degrees or less. This means a person could read the big "E" on the eye chart at 20 feet, or be able to see a person's nose and ear at the same time. Such restricted vision would provide poor or mediocre ability to walk about. Assuming that four or five times the number of legally blind people have some visual impairment, it is possible that about 1.9 million older people, or 10 percent of the total elderly population might have significant vision problems. A person whose corrected vision is 20/50 or better rarely has much problem either in outside life or reading. If an individual has 20/70 vision and an adequate field, he can get around pretty well. Often the person with only 20/200 vision can be enabled to read with magnification and a good light close to the reading material.*

In the question on eye disease included in the questionnaire, only 5.1% stated they had cataract and 3.1% said they had glaucoma, a somewhat lesser figure than that cited by Libow. This is to be expected since it is likely that persons severely afflicted would be somewhat limited as to activities. Additionally, the respondent group includes a fairly large proportion of persons younger in age than the average age of occurrence of the various diseases mentioned.

Since cataracts cause a direct loss of light entering the eye and glaucoma by means of the medication for its alleviation, causes loss of light reaching the eye, both of these conditions could have a direct affect on the comfortable use of the library. After all, libraries are lighted for persons with "normal" vision. Generally speaking, older people require more light to see as well as younger persons. At age 45, it is estimated that illumination will have to be increased by 50% to reach optimum conditions of sharpness as compared with the light requirements of a 20 year old. By the late 50's a 100% increase in brightness is required and by age 80, an increase of three and a third times is necessary. Consequently, it is very likely that levels of lighting in most libraries is not sufficient for comfortable reading for persons 45 and older.* A possible solution might be a special reading area in which light intensities are increased. Merely increasing the amount of light is not the whole solution, however, as it must be attained without an increased amount of glare. Glare can distort or mute the outlines of objects thus increasing the difficulty of seeing.

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* Don M. Gordon, "Eye Problems of the Aged", in Working With Older People, Clinical Aspects of Aging, Vol. IV, (Rockville, Md., USDHEW, Public Health Service, 1971), p. 28.

While I have been unable to find any figures showing the numbers and ages of persons wearing bi-focals, there surely must be substantial numbers in the over 45 age group. Bi-focals pose a particularly awkward problem in "reading shelves". Generally, objects are in focus in an area between a few inches from the nose to a distance approximately arm's length. So far as acuity of vision is concerned, the area immediately beyond an arm's length may constitute a pretty fuzzy area. Objects generally return to focus at about 5 or 6 feet. Reading book titles and catalog numbers either must be done with one's nose almost on the back of the book (sometimes a difficult maneuver when the books are either at the top or bottom of the stack areas) or one must back up far enough to get in focus with the "distance" part of the glasses. This is sometimes impossible due to the width of the stack aisles. While alleviation of this particular difficulty may not be possible, it is one other aspect which makes open-stack library use for some people rather uncomfortable.

Hearing. Hearing difficulties may also create a barrier to library use. Loss of hearing can mean loss of contact with life and may induce depression and withdrawal. About 30% of the persons in the 65-79 year age group suffer from some degree of hearing impairment. Unfortunately, advancing age produces a marked degree of hearing impairment--in fact, for ages 65-79 the rate of impairment is 40 times greater than for those 18-24 years of age.**

If a person needs an explanation for finding materials, the answer may not be loud enough or the words may run together or be distorted so as not to be understandable. This need for greater volume may be especially embarrassing to persons who feel they must either maintain absolute silence or not speak above a whisper in the library. While a hearing aid is definitely helpful, mere increase in volume may not solve the problem. Many whose hearing could be improved by a well fitted hearing aid do not take advantage of this correction since it is estimated that among those 45 years and over with hearing loss in both ears, only one person in five uses a hearing aid.*

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* From an unpublished paper arising from the Housing Group Participants at the White House Conference, by Jack Billingsley, p. 1.

** Health in the Later Years of Life, National Center for Health Statistics, (Rockville, Md., USGPO, 1971), p. 28.

Lipreading may also provide additional understanding. Nonetheless, in speechreading certain vocal sounds are not visible on the lips so a person reading lips receives a series of intermittent clues (through such "visible" sounds as (p), (b), (m), (f), and (v), together with facial expressions and bodily gestures to provide a meaningful interpretation. Have you ever tried to follow the conversation on television when the sound is turned off? It is a little like reading shorthand--a lot of material must be filled in. The same problems arise in providing audio-visual materials for this age segment--volume must be increased, speed of presentation decreased if possible and extraneous noises and distractions reduced to a minimum.

Arthritis and Orthopedic Defects. According to statistics from the National Health Center, almost 80% of the 65-79 year age group are afflicted with some degree of osteoarthritis, a degenerative joint disease which most often affects the hands and feet. In the 65 to 79 year age group, 50.3% of the men and 44.9% of the women in the United States are afflected with a mild form of osteoarthritis.**

Thumbing through the card catalog looking for the necessary information to locate a book with fingers stiffened and painful from arthritis can prove a tiring and discouraging task. In larger libraries, a good deal of walking may be necessary to locate a book. This may be made difficult both by arthritis (as it affects the feet) and by orthopedic defects--impairments of limbs, back and trunk. In the 65 years and over group, 17.4 men per 100 suffer such disabilities, while 19.7 women are so afflicted.*** The principal cause of these impairments is injury.

Orthopedic defects may make reaching up or stooping over difficult. When a patron finds the proper stack location for his book, the chances are two out of three that it will not be at waist level. Either the patron must bend down, head towards the floor, or reach or climb up on a stool (if one is readily available) to reach his book. Light levels at the top and bottom of the stacks may be inadequate, so it is difficult to locate the title or call number. Due to a lessened sense of balance or a reduced tactile sense in the extremities, either may result in a fall. Additional strength is often necessary to pull a book out of a tightly packed space, which could further contribute to the likelihood of losing one's balance.

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* Ibid.

** Ibid.

*** Ibid., p. 29

Health and Physical Mobility. It would appear, both from the answers on the questionnaire, and from the attendance at the various group meetings, that the respondents contacted are generally unrestricted as to physical mobility and in relatively good health. Twenty-eight and eight-tenths percent said they are limited in some of their activities, while 30.7% state they are not limited in any of their activities. Sixty-one and one-tenth percent felt themselves to be in either "excellent" or "good" health; 14.8% as excellent and 46.3% as good. Only 2.7% stated their health as "poor" and 32.7% felt their health was "fair".

Building Barriers. Many older public libraries are "Carnegie" buildings--and generally those buildings were designed to present a dignified and imposing public image. This image often included a fairly long flight of steps up to the front entrance. Also, the interiors were often designed with flights of steps between floors. About 22% of the persons 65 years and over have a heart condition which results in some activity limitation.* Climbing stairs may pose a severe limitation to those persons if other means of entering the building and gaining access to upper floors are not available. Aged people should not be expected to climb more than one flight of stairs, and the maximum riser height should not exceed 7 inches.

The inconvenience of outside stairs may be overcome by providing a ramp while the difficulty of the inside stairs may be circumvented by providing an elevator for the patrons' use. It is suggested, however, that large, easily visible signs at street level should indicate the ramp location. Elevator locations should be clearly designated, together with a designation that they can be used by the public. Automatic elevator doors should be timed to close more slowly. If possible, swinging door handles should be large enough to be easily grasped.

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* Ibid., Table 8. Average Number and Percent Distribution of Persons with Limitation of Activity Due to Selected Chronic Conditions at Ages 45-64 and 65 and Over: United States, July 1965-June 1967. p. 34.

Well cared for library floors are often highly polished. While this may be aesthetically pleasing, and a good maintenance procedure, glare from such a floor may reduce awareness of irregularities in thresholds, stairs, etc. Such a floor surface may also be slippery which increases the possibility of falling. Low gloss, non-skid wax may reduce both glare and slipperiness and produce an additional margin of safety. Some elderly women become bowlegged and walk with a waddling gait which results in their not placing their feet as securely against the floor. Carpeting may provide a more secure footing than a bare floor, gives some acoustical control, and has the additional advantage of reducing the likelihood of injury if someone does fall. Falls are not a minor problem in the 65 and over segment. Nearly 80,000 persons died in 1971 as a result of accidental injuries.* An additional 800,000 older people suffered disabling injuries lasting at least one day. Total accidents claimed 17,600 persons in the over 75 age group and 10,500 in the 65-74 age group. Although accounting for about 10% of the population, they accounted for 24% of all accidents. About half the fatal accidents were caused by falls, 26% of which occurred in public places and institutions.

One of the most disorienting architectural features in hospitals and nursing homes tends to be the halls as they seem to be the least differentiated and least identifiable areas. What does the library have in addition to its own hallways? Row upon row of stack areas whose location is defined primarily by catalog numbers. In some larger libraries it would be possible for an older person to become confused and "lost". Signs to indicate the direction of the exit might prove comforting.

Bathrooms should be readily accessible on each floor with their locations clearly marked.

When one considers the comfort of older patrons who read in the library, lighting levels should be increased, at least in some limited areas, and temperatures should be increased to approximately 78 degrees Farenheit. (This temperature may not be possible considering the present energy shortage, but the suggested 68 degrees would be definitely uncomfortable.) Library chairs often are armless. In some of the libraries decorated in a "modern" style, chairs are relatively low as are reading tables, etc. With reduced leg strength, it may be difficult for an older person to rise without being able to push himself to a standing position against the arms of a chair. Exceptionally low chairs may be even more difficult for an older patron.

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* _Aging_, No. 219, (Jan., 1973), p. 14.

Every effort should be made to remove or alleviate such building barriers as stairways, slippery floors, inadequate lighting and heating and unsuitable furniture.

## Personal Inadequacies

Probably the most basic inadequacy felt by the older patron is lack of education. For those 65 and over, median years of school completed for 1969-70 was 8.7, and only 28.2% were high school graduates. When one considers that illiteracy is defined as less than 5 years of education (and it is possible that even that grade level is too low), and that persons who left school 50 years ago may have lost reading skill due to non-use, increasing library service to that portion of the aging population is particularly difficult. Louisville respondents, however, show between 1-4 years of high school as the median years of school completed.

Persons who have never or rarely used the library may be hesitant to admit they don't know how to use the library. Loss of various roles after retirement may be considered as societal rejection by some and to chance rebuff in a volunteer activity could be considered further rejection. In some activities, a person can watch others and gauge his activities accordingly even if he had never participated before. It is difficult to see how a person could learn to use the library effectively without admitting he didn't know how to search for a book in the card catalog and have some explanation of the meaning of the classification numbers. Often, too, the circulation desk is manned by high school students or quite young persons and an older person may hesitate to ask a young person for help. Young people generally take library service for granted and they might not realize the difficulty an older person might have in learning what the library could provide.

Many of the barriers to library use by older persons may not be remediable--certain physical handicaps cannot be reduced and it may not be possible to remove certain architectural barriers short of substantial building renovation or removal of library facilities to completely new quarters. Personal inadequacies, however, may be rendered less limiting by classes designed to acquaint persons with the use of the library and a number of the services the library might perform which do not necessitate learning through the written word, such as films and lectures.

## Attitudes Toward the Library

A library attitude scale consisting of ten statements expressing commonly held beliefs about libraries and librarians was presented to the Louisville respondents. In some cases agreement with the statement constituted a "positive" answer while in others the "disagree" answer was considered the "positive" response. The following table shows the percentage of the respondents who gave positive responses to each of the ten statements.

TABLE 19

| Statement | Percent of Respondents Who Gave a Positive Answer | |
|---|---|---|
| | Agree | Disagree |
| The library is a pleasant place to spend a few hours. | 70.0 | |
| Librarians care more about books than they care about people. | | 42.0 |
| The library is mostly for students. | | 49.4 |
| The library provides a valuable service to the community. | 62.3 | |
| If a person cannot read well, there is no use going to the library. | | 52.5 |
| Librarians can suggest good books for a person to read. | 68.9 | |
| Librarians will help a person find what he is looking for if he asks for help. | 67.7 | |
| It is too hard to find what you want in a library | | 48.6 |
| The library is a place where you can only whisper, not talk aloud. | | 18.7 |
| The library has programs to help people. | 59.9 | |

Seventy percent of the respondents agree that the library is a pleasant place, and more than 60% agree that it provides a valuable community service, that librarians will provide requested assistance in locating materials, and that they can suggest good books. Almost 60% feel that the library has programs helpful to people. Fewer than half of the respondents disagreed that librarians care more about books than people; that the library is mostly for students and that it is too hard to find what you want in the library. A little over half (52.5%) disagreed that if a person is not an accomplished reader he shouldn't go to the library. In the areas covered by the negative statements, many persons in these older age groups appear to cling to attitudes that they may have been more descriptive of public libraries attitudes and services some years back rather than at present. Public libraries have become increasingly more "people" rather than "book" oriented and public libraries have continually expanded the scope of their services to include pre-school children and numerous adult interest groups, as well as students. With the wider use of more sophisticated audio-visual materials, information and entertainment can be offered without the necessity of reading. So far as the difficulty of using the library is concerned, this obstacle can be overcome by simplified explanations for locating library materials.

It was anticipated that with the more lenient rules for ordinary speech in libraries that most persons would be aware of this change and that many respondents would disagree with the statement that one could only whisper in the library. Only 18.7% felt a person could talk aloud. From the answers given to the statements, it would appear that a number of misconceptions are still held by many of the respondents. If some of the negative views could be alleviated, increased library use might result.

## Library Use and Anticipated Use

Many people are not aware of the scope of services the modern public library performs. In an effort to make persons aware of some of these services (by merely reading the question), a list was made and the respondent was asked whether he had ever used a particular service or if he would like to use a particular service. It comes as no surprise that the most frequently used service was checking out books (48.2% of the respondents had used this service). The next most frequently mentioned activity was going to the library to look up the answer to a special question, mentioned by 39.7% of the respondents. An additional 7.0%

mentioned that they would like to participate in this activity. Twenty-four and five-tenths percent had attended an art exhibit but only 19.8% had attended a talk or movie program. Whether this might indicate that the respondents prefer art exhibits to talk and movie programs, or whether the art exhibits are more frequent or better publicized is not known. Apparently, however, the art exhibits are attended by many in this group.

Seven and eight-tenths percent said they had borrowed a picture to hang on their wall at home, but 8.2% said they would like to use this service. This interest, in combination with the interest in art exhibits, might be used as a basis for talks on art appreciation and an accompanying display of art books which the library owns, and pictures the library has to loan.

Even though the Louisville Free Public Library is located conveniently to the downtown area, and the respondents are for the most part not from the county areas, the large geographic area is serviced by both branch libraries and several bookmobiles. Nonetheless, only 10.5% had visited a bookmobile, while 13.2% said they would like to do so. (The library has already established additional bookmobile stops in areas shown by the U.S. Census to have a high proportion of elderly.)

Although 89.5% of the respondents said they read a newspaper nearly every day, only 23.3% have ever read a newspaper in the library. A likely explanation is that the local newspaper is the one read and no purpose would be served by going down to the library to read it. It is possible that if a large print newspaper were available that it might be of some interest. Seventy-four and seven-tenths percent of the respondents state that they read magazines; yet, only 33.9% say they have ever read magazines in the library. One hundred seventy-three persons stated they read magazines, but 97 were non-library users. These 97 persons could be considered "potentials". Given the interest in reading magazines, it might be possible to encourage persons to begin to use the library through this medium. Magazine subscriptions are relatively expensive and copies are usually read only once and discarded. Consequently, greater emphasis on reading a variety of magazines in the library once a month might be suggested, especially for those magazines not commonly found in every household, i.e., Arizona Highways with its beautiful landscapes, Audubon Magazine, Natural History, Car and Driver, Consumer Reports, etc. For persons of limited reading skills and vocabulary, a number of magazines could convey information and aesthetic pleasure through illustrations and photographs.

One hundred fifty-nine persons stated they read books. Eighty-five of the book readers and non-users of the library. These persons may be considered "potentials".

Certain areas of library service appear to be desired by more persons than are at present using them--among these are borrowing a picture, checking out large print books, using a microcard reader and checking out "talking books" or cassettes. Over four times as many persons said they would like to use the shut-in service as have ever used it before. This would appear to be a fertile area for additional library service. In the area of talking books, more publicity could be given the older age groups about what "talking books" is, what the requirements for qualifying for this service are and how and where to apply. More information or publicity could be given on the holdings in large print books. A demonstration might be given on how to use a microcard reader and how to use a microfilm copier if one is available.

For more detailed information on the use of library services and anticipated use, see Table 20, which follows.

## TABLE 20

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)
WHOLE GROUP

N=257

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 48.2 | 5.8 |
| Go to the library to look up the answer to a special question | 39.7 | 7.0 |
| Read magazines in the library | 33.9 | 4.7 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 25.3 | 5.1 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 24.3 | 7.4 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 23.3 | 4.7 |
| Check out a film for use with some activity | 22.2 | 5.1 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 19.8 | 9.3 |
| Use the copying machine | 11.3 | 11.7 |
| Check a location on a library map of some place you've heard of but don't know where it is | 10.9 | 4.3 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 10.5 | 13.2 |
| Listen to records | 9.7 | 7.0 |
| Borrow a picture to hand on your wall at home | 7.8 | 8.2 |
| Check out books with special large print that is easier to read | 4.7 | 7.8 |
| Use a microcard reader | 3.5 | 7.0 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 2.7 | 7.8 |
| Use the shut-in service where books are brought to people unable to go to the library | 1.9 | 8.2 |

For information regarding use and anticipated use of library service for each of the subgroups, refer to Appendix A, Tables XIX to XVII.

## Reading Interests

As an aid in the selection of reading materials of special interest to retired persons, respondents were questioned on the subject matter they preferred. A reading list which includes both fiction and non-fiction areas was included. The following table shows subjects receiving ranks 1, 2 or 3 for both the fiction and non-fiction categories for the group as a whole and for each of the subgroups.

## TABLE 21

## LOUISVILLE

## READING INTEREST PROFILES FOR WHOLE GROUP AND SUBGROUPS FOR FICTION AND NON-FICTION, RANKS 1 THROUGH 3

|  | RANK |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reading Interest | Whole group (N=257) | Group 1 (N=107) | Group 2 (N=38) | Group 3 (N=19) | Group 4 (N=12) | Group 5 (N=29) | Group 6 (N=24) | Group 7 (N=12) | Group 8 (N=7) | Group 9 (N=9) |
| Fiction |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Short stories | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3(T) | 1 | 1(T) |
| Historical | 2 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 3(T) | 2 | 1(T) |
| Romance | 3 | 3 | 3 |  | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3(T) | 2(T) |
| Humor |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  | 3(T) | 1(T) |
| Science fiction |  |  |  | 2(T) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Animan stories |  |  |  | 2(T) |  |  |  |  | 3(T) |  |
| Mysteries |  |  |  |  | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3(T) |  | 2(T) |
| Adventure |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 3(T) | 2(T) |
| Westerns |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3(T) |  |
| Non-fiction |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Religion | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3(T) | 1(T) |
| Biography | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Travel | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |  |  | 2 | 3(T) |  |  |
| History |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2(T) |
| Current affairs |  |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |  | 2 |  | 2(T) |
| Homemaking |  |  |  |  | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3(T) |  | 2(T) |
| Poetry |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3(T) | 1 | 1(T) |
| Business |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 2(T) |
| Art |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3(T) | 2(T) |
| Nature |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2(T) |
| About music |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2(T) |

Note: "T" indicates tie in rank.

Short stories, historical fiction and romance were ranked one, two, and three in the fiction category; while religion, biography and travel were the most frequently mentioned subjects in the non-fiction area.

For additional detail concerning reading interests of the entire group, refer to Table 22 which follows:

TABLE 22

READING INTEREST PROFILE
(in %)
WHOLE GROUP

N=257

| Books | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Short stories | 37.0 |
| Historical | 33.5 |
| Romance | 26.8 |
| Humor | 21.8 |
| Adventure | 20.6 |
| Mysteries | 18.3 |
| Science fiction | 4.3 |
| Non-fiction | |
| Religion | 33.5 |
| Biography | 28.0 |
| Travel | 26.8 |
| Current affairs | 26.5 |
| History | 24.5 |
| Homemaking | 19.8 |
| Nature | 15.6 |
| Poetry | 14.4 |
| About music | 11.3 |
| Philosophy | 9.7 |
| Art | 9.3 |
| Business | 7.0 |
| Science | 5.1 |
| Plays | 3.9 |

70.4% read books
Median age - 70-74 years
Median education - 1-4 years of college

Detail concerning reading interest choices for each of the subgroups may be found in Appendix A Tables X to XVIII.

## The UP Index

In an effort to predict the number of persons contacted who might most readily become library users, a 7-item index (hereinafter referred to as the User Potential or UP Index) has been contracted. It is assumed that the greater the cumulative score on the UP Index, the more likely it is that the person with such a score would be a library user. Those having scores in the middles ranges would be more likely to be infrequent users of the library services. Interpretation is complicated somewhat by non-responses to the library-oriented questions. However, it is assumed that this failure to answer indicates a lack of interest and such answers are given an accordingly low score.

If a respondent lacked the necessary education to use the library, if he were highly alienated, if he neither read books or enjoyed reading, and if he had never, up to this point in his life, used the library, it is highly unlikely that he would begin to use the library after retirement. However, if he had the necessary education and liked reading books, if he had used the library even very frequently, it is more likely that he might establish the habit of using the library (especially if programs were especially chosen to fit his needs and interests). Alternatively, if he enjoyed reading, had never used the library but had a negative attitude to the library, the solution might be an attempt to increase community appreciation and awareness of the services the library can provide.

The UP Index consists of the following components:

(1) Highest level of education

(2) Subjective attitude to happiness

(3) Alienation score

(4) Enjoyment of reading

(5) Book reading

(6) Former library use

(7) Library attitude score

Each of the above components is believed to contribute to the likelihood of library use. The cross-tabulation of library use with education shows that the greatest increase in library usage occurs in conjunction with some college education. Consequently, college education and graduate education are weighted somewhat more heavily than elementary or high school education. With regard to the subjective attitude to happiness, it is felt that new or renewed experiences would be more likely to be acceptable if a person were generally happy with his situation. If a person has a low alienation score, his orientation would more likely be outward and library use might therefore be of more value to him in expanding his outlook and explaining his problems. Obviously, if a person just does not enjoy reading, he would not be very likely to use the library. Interestingly enough, though, with the advent of audio-visual equipment, persons who are not necessarily "readers" may be able to be informed and entertained through library programs in ways that were not heretofore possible. Since most people do not go to the library to read newspapers or magazines, the most likely candidates for library use would be book readers. Since learning to use the library does take some effort on the part of the patron to use the library effectively, it is felt that if such library use were not an entirely new experience, there would be less resistance to using the library. After all, it may be difficult to start something entirely new after retirement. Finally, how a person feels about the library and its services would have some bearing on whether or not it were used. The potential patron may have had unpleasant experiences in his earlier years when he tried to use the library. Libraries have changed in attitude and improved and expanded services in the last twenty years or so and are now (generally speaking) more service and less custodial oriented places. Initial reluctance might have to be overcome by some kind of orientation in the use of the library and an assurance of a friendly and helpful welcome of the older patron by the library staff.

The following table indicates scoring used in the UP Index together with the locations of the component parts on two revisions of the questionnaire. (Refer to Forms 3 and 4 of the questionnaire as shown in Chapter II.)

## SCORING FOR UP INDEX

| Question No. Rev. #4 | Question No. Rev. #3 | Subject | Score | Maximum |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION | | |
| | | Elementary | 0 | |
| | | Any high school | 1 | |
| | | Any college | 3 | |
| | | Graduate school | 4 | 4 |
| 18 | 21 | HAPPY | | |
| | | On old questionnaire, if fairly happy or very happy | 1 | |
| | | Happy or very happy | 1 | 1 |
| 19 (A-E) | 22 (1-5) | ALIENATION SCORE (SCORE) | | |
| | | Note: Old questionnaires are coded in opposite direction. | | |
| | | If score is 0, 1 or 2 | 0 | |
| | | If score is 3, 4 or 5 | 1 | 1 |
| 30 | 33 (1-10) | ENJOY READING | | |
| | | Note: On old questionnaire, if score is 5 or more, code | 2 | |
| | | If yes, | 2 | 2 |
| 33 | 39 | READ BOOKS | | |
| | | If yes | 1 | 1 |
| 36 | 45 | FORMER LIBRARY USE | | |
| | | Never (if not answered, | 0 | |
| | | code, if checked, code)- | 2 | |
| | | Count one for each check | | 4 |
| 38 (1-10) | 49(1-10) | LIBRARY ATTITUDE SCORE (SCORE 2) | | |
| | | If score is 0 to 3 | 0 | |
| | | If score is 4,5,6,or 7 | 1 | |
| | | If score is 8,9, or 10 | 2 | 2 |

A cross-tabulation of the scores of individuals on the UP Index with library use resulted in the following table:

## TABLE 23

## LOUISVILLE USER POTENTIAL SCORE AS ASSOCIATED WITH LIBRARY USE

| UP Score | User | | Infrequent User | | Non-User | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| 12 - 15 | 31 | 45.0 | 15 | 22.0 | 23 | 33.0 | 69 | 100.0 |
| 8 - 11 | 17 | 25.0 | 14 | 21.0 | 36 | 54.0 | 67 | 100.0 |
| Under 7 | 4 | 5.2 | 1 | 1.3 | 72 | 93.5 | 77 | 100.0 |
| | 52 | 24.4 | 30 | 14.1 | 131 | 61.5 | 213 | 100.0 |

Of those with high scores (between 12 and 15) 45% are users, 22% are infrequent users and 33% are non-users.

Of those with intermediate scores (between 8 and 11), 25% are users, 21% are infrequent users and 54% are non-users. Of those persons scoring below 7 on the UP Index, four are users; one person is an infrequent user while 94% are non-users. Thus it can be seen that high scores appear to be associated with library usage, intermediate scores with use and infrequent use, and low scores primarily with non-use.

When determining a realistic target group for increase in library services, generally speaking, the older population who might use the library will be reduced by:

(1) those over 75 years of age since their level of activity may be sharply reduced

(2) those who have less than an 8th grade education

(3) those who are afflicted with physical handicaps or chronic conditions which result in a number of days of restricted activity

(4) those who are institutionalized

(5) those who are unable to get to the library due to lack of transportation

Given these restrictive conditions, the total number of older persons in any service area could not be considered potential library users. Nonetheless, some persons in categories (3), (4) and (5) may still become library patrons through the medium of specialized outreach programs.

It is anticipated that it would be easier to motivate persons with high and intermediate scores who are non-users to become users of library service. These would include the 23 persons with scores between 12 and 15 and the 36 persons with scores between 8 and 11. It is further anticipated that it might be easier to induce those infrequent users with intermediate and high scores to use the library more frequently. Thus there would be 59 "potentials" in the non-user category and 29 in the infrequent user category. Accordingly, a maximum realistic target group for these respondents would be between 59 and 88 people. If success of the program is judged only by the percentage of total respondents they attract, a danger exists that the response might be considered "unsuccessful" when, in fact, the program may have attracted a considerable proportion of the "potentials". If we further consider that not all "potentials" would become library users under even the most propitious of circumstances, and if we consider that only about one-third of the respondents are library users, additional programs might be considered successful if approximately 18 to 26 persons responded to the particular programs. Consequently, judgment of program success should be cautiously interpreted in light of the attributes of the respondents.

## Summary

It must be pointed out that the Louisville respondents are doubly self-selected--first, because by their own choice they are members of groups and second, because they agreed to participate in the survey. Additionally it must be remembered that they are mostly women, fairly well-educated, healthy, mobile, and predominantly white collar workers. Most participate in a number of social activities and in general, they are happy, satisfied with their income and housing arrangements and find their retirement situation either about the same or better than they expected. Even though the respondents have many attributes favorable to the use of the library, the User Potential Index indicates that only about an additional 10% of the respondents might become users of library services either through non-users beginning to use the library or by increasing library use by infrequent users.

## POSSIBLE PROGRAMS AT LOUISVILLE

Since the Louisville Free Public Library is one of the few (less than 4% of the public libraries in the nation have specific programs) public libraries with a specific program for the elderly, the suggestions of extending their program or adding new ones has to be approached differently from others.

The data collected from the user/non-user survey shows that many more elderly would like to participate in the bookmobile III program. In fact the anticipated use percentage for the bookmobile service for the whole group was highest among all 17 items mentioned. At least four of the nine groups surveyed do have the opportunity to receive this service since regular bookmobile stops are made. Other individuals from the remaining five groups may have the opportunity to receive this service but it cannot be determined from their particular group affiliation when answering the questionnaire. However, only 10.5% of the total group said that they had visited a bookmobile. A possible way to increase service to the elderly especially in areas of high concentration of older people, would be to invite the aged individuals in the community surrounding a particular bookmobile stop to feel free to visit the bookmobile and check out materials. Additional publicity through television, radio, and newspaper announcements would help to publicize this as well as word of mouth by the librarians and their patrons. Where the bookmobile III route goes by a section with a high concentration of older people, a stop might be scheduled in a community gathering center such as a church or shopping center. In the case where there are no close library services by an area with a high percentage of elderly, perhaps a book-by-mail service could be started if it were judged financially feasible, or a book deposit could be left at one of the churches or centers which sponsors a senior citizen club. The survey showed a high interest in the use of a shut-in service.

Another factor that might be considered for bookmobile III since many of the elderly develop visual handicaps is the placement of a demonstration talking book machine and cassette machine accompanied by applications. The bookmobile already has largeprint books, prism glasses and magnifiers so this next logical step would be in keeping with the excellent service that bookmobile III already provides.

The preliminary data from the user/non-user survey shows that the elderly prefer to read fictional short stories and then historical fiction. All nine groups mentioned fictional short stories as either their first or second choice of fictional reading. Since Readers' Digest has recently come out with a large print edition, this could be added to bookmobile III's book collection. Three of the nine groups surveyed mentioned historical fiction as either their first or second choice of fictional reading. Fictional romance obtained the third highest percentage for the group as a whole and three groups mentioned it as their first or second choice of fictional reading interest (in their rank percentage order) were humor, adventure, mysteries, and science fiction.

In the non-fictional subjects, religion was cited most often by the groups as their favorite reading interest--33.5% of the 257 participants enjoyed reading religious materials and five of the nine groups named it as a first or second preference over other subjects. Biography received the next highest percentage ranking yet only two groups mentioned it as their first or second choice of non-fictional reading interests. Travel and current affairs were ranked third and fourth with three groups mentioning travel as a first or second preference. History was ranked fifth and one group mentioned it as a first or second choice of four groups mentioning it as either a first or second choice of reading. Nature, poetry, music, philosophy, art, business, science, and plays followed in rank order.

The most popular leisure time activity for the group as a whole was taking a vacation--57.2% mentioned this and five groups mentioned it as a first or second preference. The second most popular activity was yard work or gardening, four groups mentioned this as a first or second preference, and third was church or volunteer work and two groups mentioned this as a first or second preference. Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery was the fourth highest leisure time activity mentioned and four groups from the sample mentioned it as a first or second choice over other activities. Other leisure time activities are (in their rank order) playing cards or other games or concerts, going to the movies, playing bingo, listening to records (25.7% of the total sample), spend time at the library (20.6% of the total sample), attending sporting events such as basketball, etc., working jigsaw puzzles, playing a musical instrument, belonging to a singing group, and participating in any kind of sport.

Some mention has been made of the items included under anticipated library use. It was shown that the anticipated use percentage for visiting a bookmobile was highest among all other services mentioned. Using the copying machine received the next highest score in anticipated use. Attending a talk or movie program was ranked third; and borrowing a picture to hand on your wall at home and using the "shut-in" service where books are brought to people unable to go to the library were tied for fourth. Checking out books with special large print that is easier to read and checking out "talking books" or cassettes were tied for fifth; and attending an art exhibit ranked sixth.

Since the Louisville Free Public Library does have a special bookmobile service for the elderly, it would be worthwhile to check the type of materials kept on the bookmobile to see if they coincide with the results of the survey. Also the book collections of the branches located in an area with a high density of elderly could be checked as to their type of materials.

Before considering new programs, the expansion of another program might be considered as a result of the preliminary data obtained. The Friday movie showings during the day have interested many elderly and been an enjoyable activity for them to pursue. It is ideal for the fixed-income retired in that there is no cost for admission, it is located in the main library which has appropriate architectural features for the handicapped elderly, and it is during the daylight hours when it is easier and safer for the elderly to participate in activities. Since many of the elderly mentioned taking a vacation as a frequent leisure time activity and showed travel to be a popular non-fictional subject, as well as ranked talk or movie program as third in anticipated use, the movie program might be expanded to include travelogue programs using other medias besides movies such as slides. Many older people take pictures and slides on their vacation and they could put together a program which would interest their peers as well as others. If this proved successful then the idea of having similar programs at the branch libraries such as Highland and Cresent Hill with a high concentration of elderly in the vicinity could be tried.

Not only could the films be rotated but the speakers with their slides and pictures could be scheduled at various branches.

The Louisville Free Public Library is most fortunate in having a colorful puppet stage. An activity which would be worthwhile and enjoyable for many of the elderly since they mentioned sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery as one of their most frequent leisure activities would be to make puppets. A read and sew group could evolve where elderly persons could take turns reading short stories, biographies, religious materials (or some other topic which the elderly showed an interest in from the survey) while the other group members sewed on the puppets which could be used in the children's story hours. Perhaps the recreation department could co-sponsor this activity and supply the necessary art supplies.

Another activity that might be pursued in this area, would be for the children's librarian to teach some of the elderly how to tell the children's stories. This would have appeal to many elderly people but one group in particular that it might appeal to is the Foster Grandparent Program located in downtown Louisville. These older people visit children's homes, and they could profit from learning the art of storytelling.

The library's idea of starting an oral history program seems to be in agreement with the elderly's interests. Biographies and history received a high ranking in the non-fiction reading interest profile and historical fiction was ranked second in the fictional category. Older people not only have a vast potential of experiences which should be recorded as part of the area's history, but they often have collected old photographs and items of the past which can complement any oral history program. Perhaps such items could be exhibited along with the tapes at the Junior Art Gallery located in the Library.

Since religion received the highest ranking in the non-fictional category of the reading interest profile, a likely library service could be the development of a booklist or program with the cooperation of the Interfaith Aging Project whose headquarters are in Louisville. A religious booklist could be developed during the holiday sessions and distributed to the numerous senior citizens clubs in the vicinity--many of these clubs are sponsored by religious groups. Another activity would be to develop a talk program inviting various ministers, priests, and rabbis to speak to the elderly on the programs and services that they provide for elderly people.

Current affairs has special appeal to many of the elderly who were surveyed. Two approaches can be taken here. One would be to build up book, periodical, and film collections which have different appeal to the elderly. Many pamphlets, brochures, factsheets, and booklets can be obtained from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Social Rehabilitation Services, Administration on Aging, that are free of charge. These materials discuss social security measures, general demographic characteristics of the elderly, and various types of demonstration programs being held throughout the states. The Memorandum from the Senate Subcommittee on Aging should also be included in the Government Documents section--it is put out monthly and there is no charge.

Also many of the elderly surveyed stated a desire to attend talks or movie programs. A weekly talk program on current affairs with particular appeal to the elderly could be started. There are many resource people available in the area who could provide an hour long educational program. Some suggestions would be the regional Vice-president of the American Association of Retired Persons, the President of the Louisville and Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association, the Program Director of the Foster Grandparent Program, the Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Director of the Social Security Administration, someone from the office of Social Supplemental Income, the new federal assistance program, someone from Blue Cross-Blue Shield's Medicare Office, Dr. Lang, a geriatrician at the University of Louisville's Medical School, Dr. James DeBurger, a gerontologist at the University of Louisville's Sociology Department, Mr. Dave Countin, a gerontologist in the field of recreation, the Aging Planner from Jefferson County Area Development District, the Nutrition Specialist for the federally funded nutrition program for the elderly, and the county extension agent.

Another program which would involve current affairs as well as provide for intergenerational contact would be a debating club or discussion group using older people and high school students as part of the debating team or discussion group. Such topics as the ecology, energy crisis, Watergate, perception of old age, or the economy could be discussed. There is a group of high school students who visit elderly people in nursing homes or personal care homes as part of their course work; perhaps this class could be contacted to participate in such an activity at the public library.

Also the Medicare/Medicaid conducts schools throughout the state to explain the basic provisions and limitations of the two programs. Six ninety-minute sessions using a variety of techniques such as games, lectures, visual aids, and movies are given by a trained person local to the area. The public library would be an ideal place to hold these sessions for the elderly.

The last suggestion that I would like to make deals with a group of people not yet mentioned. Louisville seems like the ideal area to sponsor a pre-retirement seminar. There are numerous industries in the area who have employees retiring all the time yet there is only one industry which has sponsored a program on retirement. The different topics which should be discussed at the seminar(s) would be housing, health and nutrition, recreation, social roles, adjustment factors involving both the retiree and his/her spouse, retiree groups, publications, and financial matters. Perhaps an arrangement with the local industries could be made to provide their employees with this program, and they could help finance the service. It might be possible to incorporate the program at Brown Williamson Tobacco Corporation into the one at the library giving the corporation due credit for its pioneering in the field of pre-retirement planning, and thus provide a seminar or series of seminars once a year. The Action In Maturity (AIM) program is especially for the pre-retirement group of people, and that would be a likely organization to contact when planning a program.

# APPENDIX A

## TABLE I

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in %)

### GROUP 1

N=107

| Activity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Take a vacation trip | 74.8 |
| Church or volunteer work | 72.0 |
| Yard work or gardening | 68.2 |
| Go to plays or concerts | 57.0 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 56.1 |
| Play cards or other games such as monopoly | 48.6 |
| Go to the movies | 47.7 |
| Any kind of sewing, needlepoint or embroidery | 43.9 |
| Spend time at the library | 35.5 |
| Listen to records | 32.7 |
| Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. | 20.6 |
| Play a musical instrument | 15.9 |
| Work jigsaw puzzles | 10.3 |
| Play bingo | 9.3 |
| Participate in any kind of sports | 6.5 |
| Belong to a singing group | 6.5 |

## TABLE II

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in %)

## GROUP 2

N=38

| Activity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Take a vacation trip | 42.1 |
| Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery | 36.8 |
| Play cards or other games such as monopoly | 31.6 |
| Play bingo | 26.3 |
| Go to plays or concerts | 23.7 |
| Belong to a singing group | 21.1 |
| Yard work or gardening | 21.1 |
| Go to the movies | 18.4 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 15.8 |
| Spend time at the library | 13.2 |
| Church or volunteer work | 10.5 |
| Listen to records | 10.5 |
| Work jigsaw puzzles | 10.5 |
| Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. | 7.9 |
| Participate in any kind of sports | 2.6 |
| Play a musical instrument | 2.6 |

# TABLE III

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in %)

## GROUP 3

N=19

| Activity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Yark work or gardening | 89.5 |
| Take a vacation trip | 68.4 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 47.4 |
| Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. | 36.8 |
| Play cards or other games such as monopoly | 36.8 |
| Church or volunteer work | 36.8 |
| Go to the movies | 26.3 |
| Participate in any kind of sports | 26.3 |
| Listen to records | 26.3 |
| Go to plays or concerts | 10.5 |
| Play a musical instrument | 10.5 |
| Spend time at the library | 10.5 |
| Work jigsaw puzzles | 5.3 |
| Belong to a singing group | 0.0 |
| Play bingo | 0.0 |
| Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery | 0.0 |

## TABLE IV

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in %)

GROUP 4

N=12

| Activity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery | 83.3 |
| Play bingo | 75.0 |
| Play cards or other games such as monopoly | 41.7 |
| Take a vacation trip | 33.3 |
| Church or volunteer work | 33.3 |
| Yard work or gardening | 25.0 |
| Go to the movies | 25.0 |
| Work jigsaw puzzles | 25.0 |
| Listen to records | 25.0 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 16.7 |
| Go to plays or concerts | 8.3 |
| Participate in any kind of sports | 0.0 |
| Belong to a singing group | 0.0 |
| Play a musical instrument | 0.0 |
| Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. | 0.0 |
| Spend time at the library | 0.0 |

## TABLE V

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in %)

GROUP 5

N=29

| Activity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Play cards or other games such as monopoly | 79.3 |
| Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery | 79.3 |
| Yard work or gardening | 62.1 |
| Play bingo | 62.1 |
| Take a vacation trip | 51.7 |
| Church or volunteer work | 51.7 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 41.4 |
| Listen to records | 20.7 |
| Work jigsaw puzzles | 17.2 |
| Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. | 13.8 |
| Go to the movies | 10.3 |
| Go to plays or concerts | 6.9 |
| Participate in any kind of sports | 6.9 |
| Play a musical instrument | 6.9 |
| Spend time at the library | 6.9 |
| Belong to a singing group | 0.0 |

# TABLE VI

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in %)

## GROUP 6

N=24

| Activity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery | 79.2 |
| Play cards or other games such as monopoly | 54.2 |
| Church or volunteer work | 50.0 |
| Take a vacation trip | 41.7 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 37.5 |
| Play bingo | 37.5 |
| Yard work or gardening | 33.3 |
| Listen to records | 16.7 |
| Go to plays or concerts | 12.5 |
| Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. | 12.5 |
| Spend time at the library | 12.5 |
| Work jigsaw puzzles | 12.5 |
| Go to the movies | 8.3 |
| Belong to a singing group | 8.3 |
| Play a musical instrument | 8.3 |
| Participate in any kind of sports | 0.0 |

## TABLE VII

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

(in %)

GROUP 7

N=12

| Activity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Church or volunteer work | 58.3 |
| Yard work or gardening | 50.0 |
| Take a vacation trip | 50.0 |
| Listen to records | 50.0 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 41.7 |
| Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery | 41.7 |
| Go to the movies | 33.3 |
| Go to plays or concerts | 33.3 |
| Play cards or other games such as monopoly | 33.3 |
| Spend time at the library | 25.0 |
| Play bingo | 25.0 |
| Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. | 16.7 |
| Participate in any kind of sports | 8.3 |
| Belong to a singing group | 8.3 |
| Play a musical instrument | 8.3 |
| Work jigsaw puzzles | 8.3 |

## TABLE VIII

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in %)

### GROUP 8

N=7

| Activity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Yard work or gardening | 42.9 |
| Take a vacation trip | 42.9 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 28.6 |
| Go to the movies | 28.6 |
| Belong to a singing group | 28.6 |
| Play cards or other games such as monopoly | 28.6 |
| Play bingo | 28.6 |
| Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery | 28.6 |
| Go to plays or concerts | 14.3 |
| Play a musical instrument | 14.3 |
| Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. | 14.3 |
| Church or volunteer work | 14.3 |
| Participate in any kind of sports | 0.0 |
| Spend time at the library | 0.0 |
| Work jigsaw puzzles | 0.0 |
| Listen to records | 0.0 |

## TABLE IX

## LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES
(in %)

## GROUP 9

N=9

| Activity | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Play bingo | 77.8 |
| Belong to a singing group | 55.6 |
| Work jigsaw puzzles | 44.4 |
| Church or volunteer work | 44.4 |
| Any kind of sewing, needlepoint, or embroidery | 33.3 |
| Listen to records | 33.3 |
| Go driving for pleasure | 22.2 |
| Go to plays or concerts | 22.2 |
| Attend sporting events such as basketball, etc. | 22.2 |
| Play cards or other games such as monopoly | 22.2 |
| Go to the movies | 11.1 |
| Yard work or gardening | 0.0 |
| Take a vacation trip | 0.0 |
| Participate in any kind of sports | 0.0 |
| Play a musical instrument | 0.0 |
| Spend time at the library | 0.0 |

## TABLE X

## READING INTEREST PROFILE
(in %)

## GROUP 1

N=107

| Books | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Historical | 62.6 |
| Short stories | 44.9 |
| Romance | 41.1 |
| Adventure | 35.5 |
| Humor | 29.9 |
| Mysteries | 22.4 |
| Animal stories | 12.1 |
| Westerns | 6.5 |
| Science fiction | 3.7 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Biography | 57.0 |
| History | 47.7 |
| Travel | 45.8 |
| Religion | 45.8 |
| Current affairs | 41.1 |
| Nature | 27.1 |
| Homemaking | 25.2 |
| Poetry | 21.5 |
| Philosophy | 16.8 |
| About music | 15.9 |
| Art | 12.1 |
| Science | 8.4 |
| Plays | 7.5 |
| Business | 7.5 |

86% read books
Median age - 65-69 years
Median education - 1-4 years of graduate school

## TABLE XI

## READING INTEREST PROFILE
(in %)

## GROUP 2

N=38

| Books | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Short stories | 26.3 |
| Humor | 21.1 |
| Romance | 18.4 |
| Historical | 15.8 |
| Mysteries | 15.8 |
| Adventure | 7.9 |
| Science fiction | 5.3 |
| Westerns | 0.0 |
| Animal stories | 0.0 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Biography | 18.4 |
| Current affairs | 18.4 |
| Travel | 15.8 |
| Homemaking | 10.5 |
| About music | 10.5 |
| History | 7.9 |
| Nature | 7.9 |
| Poetry | 7.9 |
| Religion | 5.3 |
| Business | 5.3 |
| Philosophy | 2.6 |
| Science | 2.6 |
| Art | 2.6 |
| Plays | 0.0 |

44.7% read books
Median age - 75-79 years
Median education - 1-4 years of high school

## TABLE XII

## READING INTEREST PROFILE
(in %)

GROUP 3

N=19

| Books | Percentage |
|---|---|
| **Fiction** | |
| Short stories | 21.1 |
| Science fiction | 15.8 |
| Animal stories | 15.8 |
| Adventure | 10.5 |
| Westerns | 10.5 |
| Mysteries | 10.5 |
| Humor | 10.5 |
| Historical | 5.3 |
| Romance | 0.0 |
| **Nonfiction** | |
| Travel | 26.3 |
| Current affairs | 21.1 |
| History | 15.8 |
| Religion | 10.5 |
| Business | 10.5 |
| Homemaking | 10.5 |
| Science | 10.5 |
| Philosophy | 5.3 |
| Nature | 5.3 |
| Art | 5.3 |
| About music | 5.3 |
| Biography | 0.0 |
| Plays | 0.0 |
| Poetry | 0.0 |

57.9% read books
Median age - 70-74 years
Median education - 1-8 years of elementary

## TABLE XIII

## READING INTEREST PROFILE
(in %)

## GROUP 4

N=12

| Books | Percentage |
|---|---|
| **Fiction** | |
| Short stories | 33.3 |
| Mysteries | 25.0 |
| Romance | 16.7 |
| Humor | 16.7 |
| Adventure | 8.3 |
| Historical | 8.3 |
| Westerns | 0.0 |
| Science fiction | 0.0 |
| Animal stories | 0.0 |
| **Nonfiction** | |
| Religion | 41.7 |
| Homemaking | 25.0 |
| Poetry | 16.7 |
| Current affairs | 8.3 |
| Philosophy | 8.3 |
| Biography | 0.0 |
| History | 0.0 |
| Travel | 0.0 |
| Business | 0.0 |
| Science | 0.0 |
| Nature | 0.0 |
| Art | 0.0 |
| Plays | 0.0 |
| About music | 0.0 |

41.7% read books
Median age - 65-69 years
Median education - 1-8 years of elementary

## TABLE XIV

## READING INTEREST PROFILE
(in %)

## GROUP 5

N-29

| Books | Percentage |
|---|---|
| **Fiction** | |
| Short stories | 37.9 |
| Romance | 24.1 |
| Mysteries | 20.7 |
| Humor | 17.2 |
| Adventure | 13.8 |
| Historical | 10.3 |
| Westerns | 3.4 |
| Science fiction | 3.4 |
| Animal stories | 3.4 |
| **Nonfiction** | |
| Religion | 27.6 |
| Homemaking | 24.1 |
| Current affairs | 13.8 |
| Biography | 10.3 |
| History | 10.3 |
| Travel | 10.3 |
| Nature | 6.9 |
| About music | 3.4 |
| Philosophy | 0.0 |
| Science | 0.0 |
| Plays | 0.0 |
| Poetry | 0.0 |

75.9% read books
Median age - 70-74 years
Median education - 1-8 years of elementary

## TABLE XV

## READING INTEREST PROFILE
(in %)

## GROUP 6

N=24

| Books | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Short stories | 41.7 |
| Romance | 12.5 |
| Mysteries | 12.5 |
| Humor | 8.3 |
| Historical | 4.2 |
| Adventure | 0.0 |
| Westerns | 0.0 |
| Science fiction | 0.0 |
| Animal stories | 0.0 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Religion | 25.0 |
| Travel | 12.5 |
| Homemaking | 12.5 |
| Art | 12.5 |
| Poetry | 8.3 |
| About music | 8.3 |
| Current affairs | 4.2 |
| Business | 4.2 |
| Philosophy | 4.2 |
| Nature | 4.2 |
| Biography | 0.0 |
| History | 0.0 |
| Science | 0.0 |
| Plays | 0.0 |

66.7% read books
Median age - 70-74 years
Median education - 1-8 years of elementary

## TABLE XVI

## READING INTEREST PROFILE
## (in %)

## GROUP 7

N=12

| Books | Percentage |
|---|---|
| **Fiction** | |
| Romance | 33.3 |
| Adventure | 25.0 |
| Historical | 16.7 |
| Mysteries | 16.7 |
| Short stories | 16.7 |
| Humor | 16.7 |
| Westerns | 8.3 |
| Science fiction | 8.3 |
| Animal stories | 8.3 |
| **Nonfiction** | |
| Religion | 75.0 |
| Current affairs | 33.3 |
| Travel | 16.7 |
| Business | 16.7 |
| Homemaking | 16.7 |
| History | 8.3 |
| Philosophy | 8.3 |
| About music | 8.3 |
| Biography | 0.0 |
| Science | 0.0 |
| Nature | 0.0 |
| Art | 0.0 |
| Plays | 0.0 |
| Poetry | 0.0 |

83.3% read books
Median age - 65-69 years
Median education - 1-4 years of high school

## TABLE XVII

## READING INTEREST PROFILE
(in %)

## GROUP 8

N=7

| Books | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Short stories | 57.1 |
| Historical | 42.9 |
| Adventure | 14.3 |
| Romance | 14.3 |
| Westerns | 14.3 |
| Animal stories | 14.3 |
| Humor | 14.3 |
| Mysteries | 0.0 |
| Science fiction | 0.0 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Poetry | 57.1 |
| Art | 42.9 |
| Religion | 28.6 |
| Nature | 28.6 |
| Travel | 14.3 |
| Current affairs | 14.3 |
| Homemaking | 14.3 |
| Philosophy | 14.3 |
| Plays | 14.3 |
| About music | 14.3 |
| Biography | 0.0 |
| History | 0.0 |
| Business | 0.0 |
| Science | 0.0 |

71.4% read books
Median age - 70-74 years
Median education - 1-4 years of high school

## TABLE XVIII

## READING INTEREST PROFILE
(in %)

## GROUP 9

N=9

| Books | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Fiction | |
| Historical | 22.2 |
| Short stories | 22.2 |
| Humor | 22.2 |
| Adventure | 11.1 |
| Romance | 11.1 |
| Mysteries | 11.1 |
| Animal stories | 11.1 |
| Westerns | 0.0 |
| Science fiction | 0.0 |
| Nonfiction | |
| Religion | 33.3 |
| Poetry | 33.3 |
| History | 22.2 |
| Current affairs | 22.2 |
| Business | 22.2 |
| Homemaking | 22.2 |
| Nature | 22.2 |
| Art | 22.2 |
| About music | 22.2 |
| Biography | 11.1 |
| Philosophy | 11.1 |
| Science | 11.1 |
| Plays | 11.1 |
| Travel | 0.0 |

33.3% read books
Median age - 65-69 years
Median education - 1-4 years of high school

## TABLE XIX

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)

GROUP 1

N=107

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 76.6 | 5.6 |
| Go to the library to look up answer to a special question | 74.8 | 6.5 |
| Read magazines in the library | 57.9 | 4.7 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 42.1 | 9.3 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 42.1 | 7.5 |
| Check out a film for use with some activity | 42.1 | 4.7 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 40.2 | 3.7 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 34.6 | 8.4 |
| Use the copying machine | 20.6 | 16.8 |
| Check the location on a library map of some place you've heard of but don't know where it is | 15.9 | 6.5 |
| Listen to records | 14.0 | 9.3 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 11.2 | 8.4 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 10.3 | 15.0 |
| Use a microcard reader | 8.4 | 5.6 |
| Check out books with special large print that is easier to read | 5.6 | 7.5 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 4.7 | 11.2 |
| Use the "shut-in" service where books are brought to people unable to go to the library | 0.0 | 12.1 |

# TABLE XX

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)

## GROUP 2

N=38

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 13.2 | 2.6 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 7.9 | 0.0 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 7.9 | 0.0 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 7.9 | 0.0 |
| Go to the library to look up the answer to a special question | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| Listen to records | 2.6 | 0.0 |
| Check out a film for use with some activity | 2.6 | 0.0 |
| Check the location on a library map of some place you've heard of but don't know where it is | 2.6 | 0.0 |
| Check out books with special large print that is easier to read | 2.6 | 2.6 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 0.0 | 2.6 |
| Read magazines in the library | 0.0 | 2.6 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 0.0 | 2.6 |
| Use the copying machine | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 0.0 | 2.6 |
| Use the "shut-in" service where books are brought to people unable to go to the library | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Use a microcard reader | 0.0 | 2.6 |

## TABLE XXI

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)

GROUP 3

N=19

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 21.1 | 5.3 |
| Go to the library to look up the answer to a special question | 10.5 | 10.5 |
| Use the copying machine | 10.5 | 15.8 |
| Read magazines in the library | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 5.4 | 0.0 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 5.3 | 5.3 |
| Check the location on a library map of some place you've heard of but don't know where it is | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 5.3 | 0.0 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 5.3 | 21.1 |
| Listen to records | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 0.0 | 5.3 |
| Check out a film for use with some activity | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 0.0 | 5.3 |
| Use the "shut-in" service where books are brought to people unable to go to the library | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Check out books with special large print that is easier to read | 0.0 | 10.5 |
| Use a microcard reader | 0.0 | 5.3 |

## TABLE XXII

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)

GROUP 4

N=12

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 50.0 | 8.3 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 41.7 | 8.3 |
| Read magazines in the library | 33.3 | 0.0 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 25.0 | 16.7 |
| Go to the library to look up the answer to a special question | 8.3 | 0.0 |
| Listen to records | 8.3 | 0.0 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 8.3 | 0.0 |
| Call on the telephone answer to a question | 8.3 | 0.0 |
| Check out a film for use with some activity | 8.3 | 8.3 |
| Check the location on a library map of some place you've heard of but don't know where it is | 8.3 | 0.0 |
| Use the "shut-in" service where books are brought to people unable to go to the library | 8.3 | 8.3 |
| Use the copying machine | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 0.0 | 8.3 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Check out books with special large print that is easier to read | 0.0 | 8.3 |
| Use a microcard reader | 0.0 | 0.0 |

## TABLE XXIII

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)

GROUP 5

N=29

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 27.6 | 0.0 |
| Go to the library to look up the answer to a special question | 17.2 | 6.9 |
| Read magazines in the library | 13.8 | 0.0 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 13.8 | 6.9 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 10.3 | 10.3 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 6.9 | 0.0 |
| Use the copying machine | 6.9 | 3.4 |
| Listen to records | 6.9 | 3.4 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 6.9 | 0.0 |
| Check the location on a library map of some place you've heard of but don't know where it is | 6.9 | 0.0 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 3.4 | 6.9 |
| Check out a film for use with some activity | 0.0 | 3.4 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 0.0 | 3.4 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 0.0 | 3.4 |
| Use the "shut-in" service where books are brought to people unable to go to the library | 0.0 | 6.9 |
| Check out books with special large print that is easier to read | 0.0 | 3.4 |
| Use a microcard reader | 0.0 | 3.4 |

## TABLE XXIV

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)

GROUP 6

N=24

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 29.2 | 4.2 |
| Read magazines in the library | 29.2 | 8.3 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 20.8 | 20.8 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 16.7 | 0.0 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 16.7 | 4.2 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 12.5 | 4.2 |
| Go to the library to look up the answer to a special question | 12.5 | 8.3 |
| Listen to records | 12.5 | 8.3 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 12.5 | 25.0 |
| Use the copying machine | 4.2 | 0.0 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 4.2 | 20.8 |
| Check out a film for use with some activity | 4.2 | 8.3 |
| Check the location on a library map of some place you've heard of but don't know where it is | 4.2 | 8.3 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 4.2 | 8.3 |
| Use the "shut-in" service where books are brought to people unable to go to the library | 4.2 | 12.5 |
| Use a microcard reader | 0.0 | 16.7 |

## TABLE XXV

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)

GROUP 7

N=12

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 41.7 | 0.0 |
| Go to the library to look up the answer to a special question | 41.7 | 8.3 |
| Check out a film for use with some activity | 41.7 | 0.0 |
| Read magazines in the library | 33.3 | 8.3 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 33.3 | 8.3 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 33.3 | 8.3 |
| Listen to records | 25.0 | 8.3 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 25.0 | 8.3 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 16.7 | 25.0 |
| Check the location on a library map of some place you've heard of but don't know where it is | 16.7 | 0.0 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 16.7 | 8.3 |
| Use the "shut-in" service where books are brought to people unable to go to the library | 16.7 | 0.0 |
| Use the copying machine | 8.3 | 25.0 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 8.3 | 16.7 |
| Check out books with special large print that is easier to read | 8.3 | 0.0 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 0.0 | 8.3 |
| Use a microcard reader | 0.0 | 16.7 |

# TABLE XXVI

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)

GROUP 8

N=7

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Attend an art exhibit | 42.9 | 14.3 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 42.9 | 0.0 |
| Check out books | 28.6 | 28.6 |
| Read magazines in the library | 28.6 | 0.0 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 14.3 | 0.0 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 14.3 | 14.3 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 14.3 | 0.0 |
| Check out a film for use with some activity | 14.3 | 14.3 |
| Check out books with special large print that is easier to read | 14.3 | 14.3 |
| Go to the library to look up the answer to a special question | 0.0 | 14.3 |
| Use the copying machine | 0.0 | 14.3 |
| Listen to records | 0.0 | 14.3 |
| Check the location on a library map of some place you've heard of but don't know where it is | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Use the "shut-in" service where books are brought to people unable to go to the library | 0.0 | 14.3 |
| Use a microcard reader | 0.0 | 0.0 |

## TABLE XXVII

## LIBRARY SERVICES USED OR ANTICIPATED
(in %)

### GROUP 9

N=9

| Service | Used | Anticipated |
|---|---|---|
| Check out books | 55.6 | 33.3 |
| Go to the library to look up the answer to a special question | 44.4 | 33.3 |
| Call on the telephone to get an answer to a question | 44.4 | 0.0 |
| Read magazines in the library | 33.3 | 33.3 |
| Read newspapers in the library | 33.3 | 33.3 |
| Check the location on a library map of some place you've heard of but don't know where it is | 33.3 | 22.2 |
| Visit a bookmobile | 33.3 | 33.3 |
| Use the copying machine | 22.2 | 33.3 |
| Attend a talk or movie program | 22.9 | 33.3 |
| Check out a film for use with some activity | 22.2 | 33.3 |
| Borrow a picture to hang on your wall at home | 22.2 | 22.2 |
| Check out books with special large print that is easier to read | 22.2 | 33.3 |
| Listen to records | 11.1 | 22.2 |
| Attend an art exhibit | 11.1 | 33.3 |
| Check out "talking books" or cassettes | 11.1 | 33.3 |
| Use the "shut-in" service where books are brought to people unable to go the library | 11.1 | 11.1 |
| Use a microcard reader | 0.0 | 33.3 |

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